

Anti-Islam Filmmaker Arrested



Nakoula Basseley Nakoula, the man behind a crudely produced anti-Islamic video that has inflamed parts of the Middle East, is escorted by Los Angeles County sheriff's deputies from his home in Cerritos, Calif. Nakoula, 55, was arrested Thursday for violating terms of his probation, authorities said.

(AP Photo/CBS2-KCAL9)

GREG RISLING

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES (AP) — The California man behind a crudely produced anti-Islamic video posted to YouTube that has inflamed parts of the Middle East was arrested for violating terms of his probation, authorities said Thursday.

Nakoula Basseley Nakoula, 55, was convicted in 2010 for federal check and sentenced to 21 months in prison. Under terms of his probation, he was not allowed to use computers or the Internet for five years without approval from his probation officer.

Nakoula was arrested after federal probation officials determined he violated the terms of his supervised release, said Thomas Mrozek U.S. Attorney's spokesman in Los Angeles.

Continued on Page 5



Opening Bell

Voters wait in line during the first day of early voting in Council Bluffs, Iowa, Sept. 27, 2012. There is some type of early voting underway in 30 states ahead of the Nov. 6 presidential election.

(Dave Weaver/The New York Times)w

JEFF ZELENY

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DES MOINES, Iowa — As eight bells rang from the clock tower of the Polk County Courthouse, the doors to the election office opened Thursday morning and voters began casting the first ballots of the presidential race in this battleground state.

"It seems like we've been waiting for this day for a long time," said Nancy

Bobo, 60, who stood in line and voted for President Barack Obama. "I'm just thrilled to get out here and vote as soon as I possibly could."

Less than a week before the president's first debate with Mitt Romney and a month before the closing arguments of a campaign traditionally would be made, a steady stream of voters walked into election offices across the state

to cast their ballots. They will be joined by voters in Ohio next week, along with 30 states where some type of voting is already under way.

For millions of Americans, the election no longer is a fixed date on the November calendar. It is increasingly becoming an item on the fall checklist, a civic duty steeped in the convenience of everyday life. The development is profoundly

influencing presidential races, with Election Day becoming Election Month for as much as 40 percent of the electorate this year. The number of people casting early ballots nationally climbed to 31 percent in 2008 from 23 percent in 2004, according to Michael McDonald, who studies early voting at George Mason University.

Continued on Page 4



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World powers open to more nuke talks with Iran

BRADLEY KLAPPER

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — World powers decided Thursday to lay the groundwork for another round of negotiations with Iran over its disputed nuclear program, a senior U.S. official said, but they want a significantly improved offer from the Islamic republic.

Neither the U.S. nor any of its international partners was ready to abandon diplomacy in favor of military or other actions, as Israeli President Benjamin Netanyahu has advocated.

The new hope for negotiated end to Iran's decade-long nuclear standoff came after Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton met with the foreign ministers of Britain, China, France, Germany and Russia — powers that have sought, over several rounds of talks, to persuade Iran to halt its production of mate-

rial that could be used in nuclear weapons. All such efforts have failed so far.

ducing higher-enriched uranium in exchange for a suspension in international



Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu of Israel shows an illustration as he describes his concerns over Iran's nuclear ambitions during his address to the 67th session of the United Nations General Assembly at U.N. headquarters Thursday, Sept. 27, 2012.

(AP Photo/Seth Wenig)

The latest stab at a diplomatic compromise collapsed this summer after Iran proposed to stop pro-

sanctions, which Clinton has termed a "nonstarter." The U.S. official said Iran would have to bring

a much better offer to the table this time, but stressed that nations were seeing some signs for optimism and that diplomacy remained "far and away the preferred way to deal with this issue."

Catherine Ashton, the European Union's top diplomat, who has been spearheading the international diplomacy with Iran, was instructed to reach out to Iran's top nuclear negotiator, Saeed Jalili. Still, no date was set for the possible resumption of the so-called P5+1 talks with Iran, said the U.S. official, who spoke on condition of anonymity because she wasn't authorized to comment publicly about the closed-doors meeting at the United Nations.

After looking for a diplomatic solution there, Clinton met later Thursday with Netanyahu at a New York hotel where she was ex-

pected to hear the alternative argument for possible military action. Their face-to-face occurred just hours after the Israeli leader warned in an address to the U.N. General Assembly that Iran will have enough enriched uranium for a nuclear weapon by next summer. Pulling out a red marker while holding a poster depicting a cartoon-like bomb that measured Iran's nuclear progress, Netanyahu drew a "red line" across the second-to-last stage of nuclear development, reminding everyone of his demand for President Barack Obama to declare when the U.S. might attack Iran. Obama has rejected the demand.

It is getting "late, very late" to stop the Iranian nuclear threat, Netanyahu said at the United Nations.

"Red lines don't lead to war; red lines prevent war," he said. □

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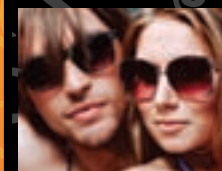
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CASINO AND SHOPS

Canadian GM workers accept contract

ROB GILLIES
Associated Press

TORONTO (AP) — Canadian auto workers at GM have voted to accept the new contract that their union leadership negotiated last week, the union said late Thursday evening. The Canadian Auto Workers union said 73 percent of its GM members accepted the four-year deal. The union said about half of the 5,500 workers at GM Canada cast ballots.

The union leadership also reached an agreement with Ford last week and Chrysler this week. Ford workers voted in favor of their deal last weekend and Chrysler workers are set to vote on their tentative agreement this weekend. GM and Chrysler matched the deal the union reached with Ford.

The contracts cut wages for new hires and freeze pay for current workers.

But the contracts also give them lump-sum payments to cover inflation and for ratifying the deal.

The deals with the three Detroit automakers avoid-

said Thursday they would work with the union over the next four years to enhance the competitiveness of the Canadian operations.



Canadian Auto Workers President Ken Lewenza speaks on the phone during a break as negotiations continue with Ford in Toronto. Canadian auto workers at GM have voted to accept the new contract that their union leadership negotiated last week, the union said late Thursday evening.

(AP Photo/The Canadian Press, Chris Young)

ed strikes and the possibility production will move to the United States in the next four years. David Wenner, a General Director at GM,

The auto companies had said Canada was the most expensive place in the world to make cars and trucks, and warned they could move production south if the CAW didn't cut costs. The CAW represents about 21,000 auto workers in Canada and about 16 percent of auto production in North America.

Canada's advantages in the past — a weak Canadian dollar and government health care — have all but vanished compared with U.S. factories.

Under the agreement new workers will receive 60 percent of the current top wage of \$33.89 Canadian dollars (US\$34.74). That would mean new workers would be paid around CA\$20.33 (\$20.84). They

can move up the wage scale and reach the top wage in 10 years.

U.S. workers at the Detroit automakers approved a similar two-tier wage agreement five years ago, but in those agreements, workers don't automatically get the top wage after 10 years. In addition, the United Auto Workers union in the U.S. has agreed to steeper concessions than the CAW, making U.S. labor costs cheaper. Going into the talks, the Detroit automakers were paying an estimated \$60 to \$62 an hour for labor and benefits in Canada, compared with \$50 an hour at Chrysler, \$56 at Ford and \$58 at GM, according to the Center for Automotive Research, a nonprofit research group. □

Clinton presses China over disputed islands

MATTHEW LEE
Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton urged China's top diplomat on Thursday to peacefully resolve increasingly tense maritime disputes with Japan and its smaller neighbors in South-east Asia.

A senior U.S. official said Clinton pressed Chinese Foreign Minister Yang Jiechi on the importance of settling a conflicting claim with Japan over the Japanese-held Senkaku islands, called Diaoyu by China, along with numerous competing claims in the South China Sea with members of the Association of South East Asian Nations.

"We urged that cooler heads prevail, that Japan and China engage in dialogue to calm the waters," the official said. "We believe that Japan and China have the resources, have the restraint, have the ability to work on this together and take tensions down."

The official was not authorized to publicly discuss the private discussion between Clinton and Yang on the sidelines of the annual U.N. General Assembly and therefore requested anonymity. Clinton was expected to make the same case to Japanese Foreign Minister Koichiro Gamba when she meets with him in New York.

The territorial spat has raised tensions between Japan and China to their highest level in years.

Japanese Prime Minister Yoshihiko Noda said Wednesday that his nation was not willing to compromise over the Senkakus, which are uninhabited but sit astride rich fishing waters and potentially large reserves of natural gas. The dispute has spawned violent anti-Japan protests in China.

"So far as the Senkaku islands are concerned, they are the inherent part of our territory, in light of history and international law. □

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Obama sums up re-election case as early voting begins

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Barack Obama summed up his case for another term Thursday to voters already casting ballots in large numbers more than five weeks before Election Day, pledging to create many more jobs and “make the middle class secure again.” The Obama campaign has been encouraged by polling showing the president starting to take a lead in some of most important battleground states, many of which offer the increasingly popular choice of early voting, which started in Iowa on Thursday. The race remains far from settled, however.

The president and Republican challenger Mitt Romney face a crucial test next week with the first of three presidential debates. It is perhaps Romney’s best remaining chance to change the trajectory of the campaign.

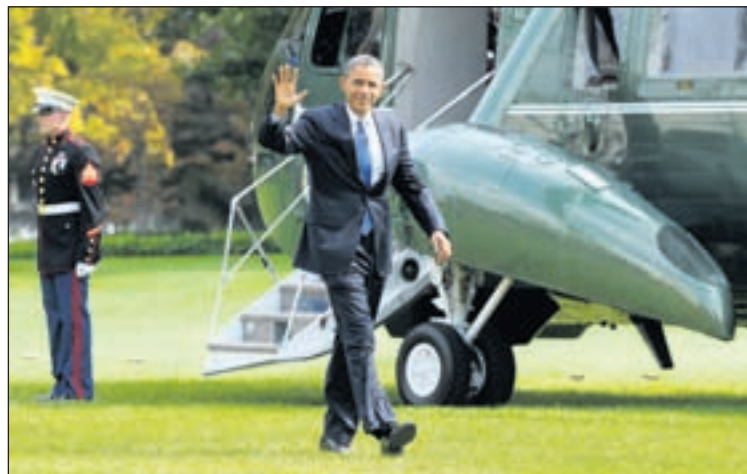
The two candidates campaigned in each other’s shadow for a third straight day, hunting for votes in the competitive state of Virginia. The U.S. president is not chosen by national popular vote but in state-by-state contests. In the final stretch of the long campaign, both candidates are focusing their efforts on states whose voters are neither reliably Democratic

nor Republican.

“It’s time for a new economic patriotism, an economic patriotism rooted

in the belief that Obama’s policies aren’t working.

Early voting began Thursday in Iowa, with long lines



President Barack Obama waves after walking off the Marine One helicopter at the White House in Washington, Thursday, Sept. 27, 2012, after campaigning in Virginia.

(AP Photo/Susan Walsh)

in the belief that growing our economy begins with a strong and thriving middle class,” Obama said in Virginia Beach. It was a line straight from the two-minute television commercial his campaign released overnight.

Romney, focusing on threats beyond American shores, accused the commander in chief of backing dangerous cuts in defense spending. With the economy still the dominant election issue, Romney and his allies also seized on news that the U.S. economy grew at a much lower rate than previously estimated during the April-June quarter. The Republicans called

forming quickly in the capital of the highly contested Midwestern state. Although Virginia does not offer early voting, the southern state has already sent out absentee ballots for those who are not able to make it to the polls on Election Day.

Campaigning in Virginia, where the military is key, Romney accused Obama of supporting cuts in the defense budget that would be detrimental to the nation’s military readiness.

“The world is not a safe place. It remains dangerous,” he said, referring to North Korea, Syria, Iran, Pakistan and Afghanistan.



Opening Bell

Continued from front

This year, party strategists estimate that up to 40 percent of voters will cast ballots before Nov. 6, but the proportion is even higher in many battleground states. In Florida, North Carolina, Colorado and Nevada, both campaigns believe that as much as 70 percent of the ballots will be cast before Election Day. And in Ohio, Wisconsin and Iowa, advisers to both campaigns said at least 30 percent of people are expected to vote early.

Iowa became the first swing state to allow voters to cast ballots in person this week, a provision of state election law that the Obama campaign has seized upon. In the opening hours of voting Thursday, supporters of the president dominated the line here in the state’s biggest city. They were easily identifiable by their blue Obama 2012 stickers that declared, “Be the First!”

The bustling line slowed to a trickle after about two hours Thursday morning. But the real burst of voting is yet to come, when the tens of thousands of absentee ballots that were previously requested by voters start arriving by mail, and through satellite voting locations that will be open across the state in places that were requested by the campaigns to maximize turnout.

The Iowa Secretary of State’s office said Democrats had a 5-to-1 advan-

tage over Republicans in the numbers of absentee ballots requested statewide. Republicans said the numbers would level out over the next 40 days.

“We are going to close that gap in Iowa,” said Rick Wiley, political director of the Republican National Committee. “Democrats in Iowa have a propensity to cannibalize their Election Day voters. What they’ve done is find people who would vote on Election Day anyway.”

While the early voting laws are not new in most states, election officials say campaigns are seeking to leverage them to a greater degree than in any previous presidential campaign.

“It has changed from one 13-hour Election Day to 40 days,” said Jamie Fitzgerald, the Polk County auditor, who oversees elections here. “You are really seeing a lot more emphasis on early voting and ballots by mail.” The Obama campaign invited Jason Alexander, the actor who played George Costanza on “Seinfeld,” to travel across Iowa to promote early-voting efforts Thursday. The Romney campaign held a rally aimed at women, featuring Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchison of Texas.

At the election office, as Bobo stood with other Obama supporters on the first day of early voting, she said she wondered where Romney’s supporters were. “I don’t see them,” she said with a smile. “But we’re not taking anything for granted.”



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Chef found guilty of murder in boiled body case



David Viens gestures to family as he is rolled out of court Thursday Sept. 27, 2012, in Los Angeles after being convicted of second degree murder in the death of his wife Dawn Viens in 2009. Viens, a chef, told police he boiled his wife's body for four days to hide evidence of her death.

(AP Photo/Brad Graverson, Pool)

LINDA DEUTSCH
AP Special Correspondent
LOS ANGELES (AP) — A chef who told police he

boiled his wife's body for four days to hide evidence of her death was convicted Thursday of second-de-

gree murder.

David Viens showed no reaction as the verdict was read.

The sister of his victim burst out sobbing.

In a recorded interrogation presented by prosecutors during the trial, Viens, 49, can be heard saying he cooked the body of his 39-year-old wife, Dawn Viens, in late 2009 until little was left but her skull.

"He treated her like a piece of meat and got rid of her," said Karen Patterson, the couple's best friend who spoke to reporters outside court.

She was the key witness in Viens' trial and the person who prodded police to in-

vestigate her friend's disappearance.

At a news conference, she tearfully warned others to take heed of domestic violence among friends and call police. She apologized for failing to call police

when Dawn Viens called her during an incident of abuse but begged her not to call police.

"Maybe you have to go beyond your friend's trust and try to save lives," she said. □

California man behind anti-Islam film arrested

Continued from front

A U.S. District Court hearing was scheduled for Nakoula on Thursday afternoon. It was closed to media and the public.

Protests have erupted around the Middle East over a 14-minute trailer for "Innocence of Muslims," which depicts Muhammad as a womanizer, religious fraud and child molester. Though the trailer was posted to YouTube in July, the violence didn't break out until Sept. 11 and has spread since, killing dozens. Nakoula, a Christian originally from Egypt, went into hiding after he was identified as the man behind the trailer. The full story about Nakoula and the video still isn't known.

The movie was made last year by a man who called

himself Sam Bacile. After the violence erupted, a man who identified himself as Bacile called media outlets including The Associated Press, took credit for the film and said it was meant to portray the truth about Muhammad and Islam, which he called a cancer. The next day, the AP determined there was no Bacile and linked the identity to Nakoula, a former gas station owner with a drug conviction and a history of using aliases. Federal authorities later confirmed there was no Bacile and that Nakoula was behind the movie.

Before going into hiding, Nakoula acknowledged to the AP he was involved with the film, but said he only worked on logistics and management.

A film permit listed Media

for Christ, a Los Angeles-area charity run by other Egyptian Christians, as the production company. Most of the film was made at the charity's headquarters. Steve Klein, an insurance agent in Hemet and outspoken Muslim critic, has said he was a consultant and promoter for the film. The trailer still can be found on YouTube. The Obama administration asked Google, YouTube's parent, to take down the video but the company has refused, saying it did not violate its content standards.

Meantime, a number of actors and workers on the film have come forward to say they were duped. They say they were hired for a film titled "Desert Warrior" and there was no mention of Islam or Muhammad in the script. □

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NY subway 'savage' ads get disclaimers

NEW YORK (AP) — The agency that oversees New York City's public transit system says it will continue to allow political advertisements on subways and buses but will require them to carry disclaimers.

The Metropolitan Transportation Authority adopted the new policy Thursday in the wake of a court decision that forced it to run an ad implying that enemies of Israel are "savages." Under the new policy, ads expressing political, religious or moral viewpoints will have to include legends cautioning the views being expressed aren't necessarily endorsed by the MTA.

A federal judge had ruled the MTA couldn't refuse to accept an ad saying, "In any war between the civilized man and the savage, support the civilized man. Support Israel. Defeat Jihad."

An Egyptian-born columnist was arrested this week for vandalizing one of the ads. □



Cyrus McGoldrick, Advocacy Director for Council on American-Islamic Relations, makes a photo with his cell phone of an anti-Muslim poster on Monday, Sept. 24, 2012, in New York's Times Square subway station. A federal court forced the Metropolitan Transportation Authority to run the ad by blogger Pamela Geller, executive director of the American Freedom Defense Initiative, saying it was protected speech under the First Amendment. "As civil rights advocates, we defend Pam Geller's rights as a racist and a bigot," said McGoldrick. "Muslims are tired of being targets while extremes feed their propaganda."

(AP Photo/Bebeto Matthews)

American Airlines to pilots: end disruptions

DAVID KOENIG
AP Airlines Writer

DALLAS (AP) — American Airlines says if pilots don't end actions that are disrupting flights, it will take their union to court.

A senior American Airlines executive told union leaders that some pilots were conducting "an unlawful, concerted effort to damage the company" by filing more maintenance complaints, flying circuitous routes and other tactics, all leading to a surge in late and canceled flights.

Denise Lynn, the company's senior vice president of people, said the pilots' actions are alienating pas-



Captain Mike McClellan, ORD Domicile Chairman of the Allied Pilots Association left, joins over 200 American Airlines pilots marching on a picket line at O'Hare International Airport, in Chicago. American Airlines said Thursday, Sept. 27, 2012, if pilots don't end actions that are disrupting its flights, it will take their union to court. A top American Airlines executive told union leaders that some pilots were conducting "an unlawful, concerted effort to damage the company" by filing more maintenance complaints and other tactics, leading to a surge in late and canceled flights.

(AP Photo/M. Spencer Green)

sengers and threatening the company's financial prospects, just as American parent AMR Corp. is trying to turn itself around after a decade of huge losses.

"If we do not see an immediate, measurable improvement in our operations, we will have no choice but to seek appropriate injunctive relief" in court, Lynn said. The union, which is angry over the company's decision to use bankruptcy protection to impose new pay and work rules on pilots, said Thursday that there is no sickout or slowdown causing American's spike in canceled and delayed flights. □

U.S. moving to tighten kids' online privacy

NATASHA SINGER

© 2012 New York Times

Federal regulators are about to take the biggest steps in more than a decade to protect children online. The moves come at a time when major corporations, app developers and data miners appear to be collecting information about the online activities of millions of young Internet users without their parents' awareness, children's advocates say. Some sites and apps have also collected details like the photographs or codes on mobile devices; the concern is that the information could be used to identify or locate individual children.

These data-gathering practices are currently legal. But the development has so alarmed officials at the Federal Trade Commission that the agency is moving to overhaul rules that many experts say have not kept pace with the explosive growth of the Web and innovations like apps. New rules are expected within weeks. "Today, almost every child has a computer in his pocket and it's that much harder for parents to monitor what their kids are doing online, who they are interacting with, and what information they are sharing," says Mary K. Engle, associate director of the advertising practices division at the FTC. "The concern is that a lot of this may be going on without anybody's knowledge." But many marketers argue that the FTC's proposed changes seem so extensive and onerous that they could cause companies to reduce their offerings for children — or abandon developing new child-centric sites or apps altogether. □

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NYC to round out skyline with tallest Ferris wheel

JENNIFER PELTZ
Associated Press
NEW YORK (AP) — The Big Apple is getting another “biggest”: the world’s tallest Ferris wheel, part of an ambitious plan to draw New Yorkers and tourists alike to

think, unlike any other on the planet,” Mayor Michael Bloomberg said as he unveiled the plans against the backdrop of New York Harbor. While the privately financed project faces various reviews, officials hope

to have the wheel turning by the end of 2015. The wheel would put Staten Island on the map of superlatives in a place where “biggest” is almost an expectation — home to the nation’s biggest city population, busiest mass-transit system, even the biggest Applebee’s restaurant.

50.9 million visitors last year, said Mitchell Moss, a New York University urban policy professor. The project is expected to bring \$500 million in pri-

vate investment and 1,100 permanent jobs to the borough’s St. George waterfront, and the developers will pay the city \$2.5 million a year in rent for the land. □



In this image released by the New York Mayor’s Office, Thursday, Sept. 27, 2012 is an artist’s rendering of a proposed 625-foot Ferris wheel, billed as the world’s largest, planned as part of a retail and hotel complex along the Staten Island waterfront in New York. The attraction, called the New York Wheel, will cost \$230 million. Officials say the observation wheel will be higher than the Singapore Flyer, the London Eye, and a “High Roller” wheel planned in Las Vegas. Beyond the wheel is the Manhattan skyline. On the lower right is the Richmond County Bank Ballpark, home of the Staten Island Yankees.
(AP Photo/Office of the Mayor of New York)

the city’s so-called “forgotten borough.” The 625-foot (190-meter)-tall, \$230 million New York Wheel is to grace a spot in Staten Island overlooking the Statue of Liberty and the downtown Manhattan skyline, offering a singular view as it sweeps higher than other big wheels like the Singapore Flyer, the London Eye, and a “High Roller” planned for Las Vegas. Designed to carry 1,440 passengers at a time, it’s expected to draw 4.5 million people a year to a setting that also would include a 100-shop outlet mall and a 200-room hotel. It will be “an attraction unlike any other in New York City — in fact, it will be, we

The attraction stands to change the profile of the least populous and most remote of the city’s five boroughs, a sometime municipal underdog that has taken insults from New Jersey and was once known for having the world’s largest ... landfill. “It’s going to be a real icon. The Ferris wheel will be Staten Island’s Eiffel Tower,” Sen. Charles Schumer enthused. As a visible addition to the skyline around the harbor, the wheel “gives Staten Island an identity beyond its role as a suburban community,” while letting it tap into the stream of tourist money in a city that drew

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THE POSSESSION daily: 5:00 7:15 9:30 PG-13 late show: 11:45	THE POSSESSION daily: 10:00 PG-13 late show: 12:00
HIT AND RUN daily: 7:15 9:30 R late show: 11:45	HIT AND RUN NED daily: 7:30 9:45 R late show: 12:00
THE COLD LIGHT OF DAY daily: 7:30 9:45 NL late show: 12:00 PG-13	THE COLD LIGHT OF DAY NED daily: 7:15 9:30 NL late show: 11:45 PG-13
KILLER JOE daily: 5:15 12:45 3:00 R matinee: 12:45	KILLER JOE daily: 5:00 2:30 R matinee: 2:30
THE ODD LIFE OF TIMOTHY GREEN daily: 12:15 2:45 PG matinee:	HOPE SPRINGS daily: 7:45 PG-13 matinee:
DREDD - STARTS FRIDAY! Matinee: sat & sun Late show: fri & sat	LAWLESS daily: 5:15 R matinee:

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Despite strong protests:

Spain, Greece launch austerity plans to secure aid

CIARAN GILES

Associated Press

MADRID (AP) — Spain and Greece outlined plans Thursday to reduce government spending and raise taxes to convince international lenders and financial markets they are on track to cut their deficits.

The latest round of belt-tightening comes as economies across Europe get weaker and public resentment toward austerity grows stronger.

Spain's plan to slash its deficit in 2013 and 2014 signals to many analysts that it's preparing to request a financial lifeline from other governments and the European Central Bank. To

receive this help, countries must first show they are serious about reining in deficits. "This is a budget in times of crisis but one to help get out of the crisis," deputy Prime Minister Soraya Saenz de Santamaria said. For similar reasons, Greece's coalition government agreed to cut spending over the next two years by €11.5 billion (\$14.77 billion). Without the cuts, Greece would have been cut off from vital bailout loans that it needs to pay its bills — and stay in the eurozone. The loans come from the International Monetary Fund, European Union and the ECB.

Financial markets cheered the budget-cutting. In Eu-

rope, stocks rose in anticipation of the Spanish measures. France's benchmark stock index finished 0.7 percent higher and Ger-

man's main index rose 0.2 percent. Borrowing costs for Spain and Italy fell, and the Dow Jones industrial average rose 72 points. But the region remains in trouble. Economic con-

fidence in the 17 countries that use the euro fell to its lowest level in over three years, according to a survey by the European

Central Bank. Across Europe, six countries are in recession and economists predict the entire region could be heading for recession by the end of the year. Throughout the three-year financial crisis, eurozone governments have had to impose harsh cuts and reforms to get control of their debts and — in the case of Greece, Portugal and Ireland — qualify for vital aid. The austerity measures have hit citizens with wage cuts and fewer services, and reduced government spending has undermined growth. In some countries, the austerity measures have sparked violent protests. But governments have pressed on with the cuts and reforms to get the eurozone financial crisis under control — and to get help from other countries and organizations.

Finance Minister Cristobal Montoro said Thursday Spain's draft budget for 2013 would cut overall spending by €40 billion (\$51 billion). □



Finance Ministry, tax office and customs employees march in central Athens outside the finance ministry building to protest new austerity measures, on Thursday, Sept. 27, 2012. As the party leaders conferred Thursday, tax and customs employees, who are on strike until Friday against planned pay cuts, held a peaceful protest in the capital.
(AP Photo/Petros Giannakouris)

Union's Commission. Meanwhile, unemployment figures in Germany continued to drift higher, in spite of a small seasonal boost in jobs, underlining concerns that Europe's biggest economy

clears the way for it to start work next month. Kohl was a driving force behind the euro and remains an iconic figure in Merkel's conservative party. Bailing out eurozone strugglers hasn't been popular in Germany and has caused particular unease in parts of Merkel's center-right governing coalition. Kohl's name is "inextricably linked" with Europe's currency union, Merkel said, adding that he recognized that "a common currency would make European in-

Germany:

Merkel renews pledge to stabilize euro

BERLIN (AP) — German Chancellor Angela Merkel on Thursday renewed her pledge to stabilize the eurozone, and her insistence that it will be a step-by-step process, as she honored one of the currency's founders — long-serving predecessor Helmut Kohl. Merkel's comments, at an event marking the 30th anniversary of Kohl's rise to power, came hours after Germany's president ratified the eurozone's permanent €500 billion (\$645 billion) rescue fund. That

clears the way for it to start work next month. Kohl was a driving force behind the euro and remains an iconic figure in Merkel's conservative party. Bailing out eurozone strugglers hasn't been popular in Germany and has caused particular unease in parts of Merkel's center-right governing coalition. Kohl's name is "inextricably linked" with Europe's currency union, Merkel said, adding that he recognized that "a common currency would make European in-

tegration irreversible." Merkel added that "the euro is far more than a currency." But she also pointed to promises made when the euro was introduced to justify her hard-nosed approach to the crisis — helping struggling countries while insisting on deficit-cutting and economic reform efforts in exchange. "The promise of stability also was linked with the introduction of the euro — we feel committed to this promise in the German government," Merkel said. □

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Syrian military's text to rebels: 'Game over'

KARIN LAUB
Associated Press

BEIRUT (AP) — Cellphones in Syria rang, buzzed and chirped Thursday with an ominous text message from the military to members of the armed rebellion: "Game over."

service providers said they began receiving the text messages signed by the Syrian Arab Army urging the rebels to surrender their weapons and warning that a countdown to evict any foreign fighters in the country has be-

Army, said he found the message comical.

"I will never hand over my weapon because the game is not over yet," he said, giving only his first

name for fear of reprisals. "It won't be over until Assad's death."

The rebels on Thursday stepped up attacks against regime forces in Aleppo,

parts of which they seized two months ago, although they have been unable to dislodge pro-Assad troops from the rest of the northern city of 3 million people. □



A Syrian man, left, is comforted after the death of his brother by a Syrian Army sniper, outside Dar El Shifa Hospital in Aleppo, Syria, Thursday, Sept. 27, 2012.

(AP Photo/Manu Brabo)

The rebels provided their own response to the regime's warning to surrender and disarm by launching new attacks to drive government troops out of the largest city of Aleppo.

There's no indication that the stalemated civil war has taken a decisive turn in any direction, however, and the bloodshed that has already claimed more than 30,000 lives looks likely to drag on for many more months. Compounding the grim outlook, sharp disagreements between Syria's foreign friends and foes — on display at the U.N. General Assembly this week — have prevented a diplomatic solution from taking shape.

Syrians with subscriptions to the country's two cellphone

gun. Those with prepaid phones did not receive a message, according to residents in the capital of Damascus.

The texts appeared to be a kind of psychological warfare against the rebels by the regime of President Bashar Assad. In August, army helicopters dropped leaflets warning rebels in Damascus to disarm and seek amnesty. Government officials were not available for comment.

The messages are highly unlikely to have any effect on fighters intent on toppling Assad, and rebel supporters shrugged off the regime's warning as a sign of desperation.

Ali, a 28-year-old member of the rebels' Free Syrian



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Mexico catches alleged Zeta capo 'El Taliban'

E. EDUARDO CASTILLO
MICHAEL WEISSENSTEIN

Associated Press

MEXICO CITY (AP) — Mexican marines acting on U.S. intelligence seized the leader of a breakaway faction of the hyper-violent Zetas cartel, officials said Thursday, proclaiming the third such arrest in a month as a victory for a binational strategy focused on removing the leadership of Mexico's powerful organized crime groups.

Ivan Velazquez Caballero, known as "El Taliban," was seized by a team of marines in the northern city of San Luis Potosi, the Mexican navy said. He becomes the 24th of Mexico's 37 most-wanted alleged cartel leaders to be killed or captured under President Felipe Calderon, who escalated Mexico's war on drug gangs days after taking office and who ends his term in two months.

Calderon has been praised by the U.S. for his assault on the cartels, but heatedly criticized inside Mexico for an excessive focus on using

armed force and arresting gang leaders.

Critics say his approach splintered cartels into dozens of smaller factions, increasing the competition among them and fueling a brutal war for control of smuggling routes before Mexico had an adequate law-enforcement and justice system in place.

"You lose the leadership and the group starts fighting for power. We've seen that with every group that's been beheaded," said Guadalupe Correa-Cabrera, an expert on the Zetas' home state of Tamaulipas, and chair of the government department at The University of Texas at Brownsville.

The government said at least 47,500 people had been killed in drug-related violence during Calderon's term before it stopped releasing figures last year. Independent observers say the death toll could be many thousands higher.

Velazquez Caballero allegedly has been fighting a bloody internal battle with



The alleged leader of a faction of the hyper-violent Zetas cartel, Ivan Velazquez Caballero, known as "El Taliban," is escorted to a media presentation at the Mexican Navy's Center for Advanced Naval Studies in Mexico City, Thursday, Sept. 27, 2012. Velazquez Caballero allegedly has been fighting a bloody internal battle with top Zetas' leader Miguel Angel Trevino Morales, and officials have said the split was behind a recent surge in massacres and shootouts, particularly in northern Mexico. (AP Photo/Eduardo Verdugo)

top Zetas' leader Miguel Angel Trevino Morales, and officials have said the split was behind a recent surge in massacres and shootouts, particularly in northern Mexico.

The U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration declined to comment on the potential for more violence in the wake of the arrest.

Velazquez Caballero is the third alleged cartel leader to be taken into custody this month. All are accused of leading factions of the Gulf Cartel or Zetas, former allies now feuding over valuable smuggling territory along the U.S. border. The alleged heads of the two main factions of the Gulf group, Mario Cardenas Guillen and Jorge Eduardo Costilla Sanchez, were also seized in Navy operations in northern Mexico.

"This is another big fish, it's another great catch by the Mexicans," DEA spokesman Rusty Payne said. He said the arrest emerged from close intelligence sharing between the two countries. □

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EU wants \$12B a year from US over Boeing aid

DON MELVIN

Associated Press

BRUSSELS (AP) — The European Union said Thursday it is asking the World Trade Organization to impose up to \$12 billion per year in sanctions on the U.S. as part of a long-running dispute involving government subsidies to plane-makers Airbus and Boeing.

The EU said in a statement the amount was "based on

nies need to have a level playing field in international competition," Foreign Trade Minister Nicole Bricq and Transport Minister Frederic Cuvillier said in a statement. "This conflict has gone on too long now. We must put an end to it and restore fair competition. It is important for European companies and jobs."

An Airbus spokeswoman also praised the EU deci-

a statement the company made Sunday when the U.S. issued a statement saying it had complied with the WTO ruling in the case.

The Boeing statement then endorsed the U.S. government statement and sharp-

ly criticized Europe and Airbus. While the U.S. had complied, the statement said, "the same cannot be said of Airbus and its government sponsors, which have thumbed their noses at the WTO. Despite a crystal clear

ruling against launch aid subsidies, European governments have continued the practice by providing Airbus with billions of taxpayer euros and pounds for its next new product, the A350. □



A Boeing flag fluttering as an Airbus A380 flies past during a demonstration flight at the 49th Paris Air Show at Le Bourget airport, east of Paris. The European Union seeks some US\$ 12 billion in sanctions against the United States as part of a long-running dispute before the World Trade Organization involving subsidies to plane makers Airbus and Boeing. The Geneva-based trade body said Thursday, Sept. 27, 2012 that the EU plans request on Oct. 23 the right to impose the sanctions. (AP Photo/Francois Mori)

estimates of the damages suffered by the EU due to unfair and biased competition from the U.S. industry," which received U.S. government subsidies.

The action marks the latest salvo in a seven-year dispute between the EU and the U.S. over subsidies to the two plane-makers.

Officials from France, where Airbus is based, welcomed the EU's decision.

"The aerospace compa-

sion.

"But this is nothing other than the next step in a trade dispute initiated in 2004 by Boeing. ..." Maggie Bergsma said. "We regret that Boeing continues a legal battle that could have been resolved a long time by mutual agreement.

A spokesman for Boeing said the company had no immediate reaction to the EU's decision to seek sanctions, but referred to



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O·P·I

Ahead of election, some Venezuelans abandon Chavez

LUIS ANDRES HENAO

Associated Press

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP) — Liliana Carias used to hope President Hugo Chavez would change her life. Not anymore.

She's been living for years in a dirt-floor shack without running water, and after voting for Chavez in the last three presidential elections, the single mother of four said she's tired of waiting for help.

She was among thousands of people who cheered for the president's rival recently in the serpentine streets of Caracas' Petare slum, which used to be a bastion of support for Chavez. She held out a handwritten letter addressed to "My future President Henrique Capriles," the opposition challenger, writing that her salary as a supermarket cashier was no longer enough to support her family and she was worried her landlord would evict them.

"We need change," Carias said as the drum-beating caravan paraded by. "I thought it would come with Chavez but I'm very disappointed. He promised us everything but nothing changed. I still don't have running water, sewer or electricity."

From single mothers to construction workers, some Chavez supporters have been turning away from the president to consider new leadership. They've become key to the Oct. 7 presidential vote and Capriles' strategy.

Surveys don't indicate exactly which "Chavistas" are becoming "Caprilistas," but the group appears to include working-class and lower-middle-class Venezuelans. Polls also reveal weariness over a growing yet troubled economy, 18 percent inflation and one

of the world's highest murder rates.

Despite billions of dollars in government spending on social programs, solutions to problems such as the country's severe housing shortage have been elusive. Slums have grown during Chavez's presidency, and the government's construc-

tion they're being bypassed and have lost faith in the government's promises.

Chavez held a 10-point lead over Capriles in a survey released this week by the Venezuelan polling firm Datanalisis. But the 49 percent who said they intend to vote for Chavez was dramatically lower than the

would vote for Chavez.

The poll questioned 1,500 people Sept. 7-18 and had an error margin of 3 percentage points. It also included a second question, in which people were asked to mark their choice in secret, in case they didn't want to reveal their preference to the pollster. Under that method, Capriles had almost 49 percent and Chavez just under 46 percent.

Saul Cabrera, the polling company's vice president, said Thursday that the results show a "technical tie." He said the poll was paid for a Venezuelan business, but he declined to identify it.

Analysts say a strong turnout by disenchanted ex-Chavistas could help tip the balance in favor of the challenger.

"The votes of those who have changed sides are key in this race because without them, it would be impossible for Capriles to win," said Luis Vicente Leon, president of Datanalisis.

Chavez first won the presidency in 1998 with promises to sweep away corrupt, entrenched political parties and help the poor in this oil-rich country.

That message helped the soldier-turned-politician win political dominance throughout the 2000s as the economy boomed along with oil earnings.

Chavez has remained popular in part thanks to social programs including state-run grocery stores, medical clinics staffed by Cuban doctors and cash benefits for poor families.

Government figures show the number of Venezuelans living in poverty decreased most markedly between 2004 and 2007, and then in the following years budged little, while the opposition grew stronger and fared

better in elections. In the 2010 congressional elections, for instance, the government held on to a majority of seats but the popular vote was almost evenly split between the pro- and anti-Chavez camps.

Chavez's popularity slipped as the economy stalled, though it still hovered around 50 percent or higher during much of the past year. In that time, he's waged a protracted fight against cancer and had to square off against the opposition's first candidate ever chosen in a primary vote.

"It's clear that he's not the same Chavez as he was in 2006," Leon said. "His ratings in terms of performance and public approval have changed. If (Capriles) has a chance, it's because of that. There's a migration of votes. The question is: Is it enough?"

Chavez, for one, has called an opposition victory impossible, saying he'll win by a "knockout" and even put on boxing gloves at one point to emphasize his prediction.

"For those who say there's a hidden vote, or that Chavistas will vote against Chavez, it's something like saying there are Martians on the sun," Chavez quipped. Chavez has also been trying to make inroads among traditional middle-class opposition supporters. On a recent evening a small crowd of Chavistas demonstrated on a corner in an affluent Caracas neighborhood, holding banners announcing "The Middle Class with Chavez." The impression has nonetheless grown that the president has become too enamored of his own global legacy while neglecting basic needs at home such as infrastructure and public safety. □



A man and his daughter pose with a poster that reads in Spanish; "I'm a socialist and will vote for Capriles," at a campaign rally in Miranda, Venezuela. From single mothers to construction workers, a segment of President Hugo Chavez supporters have been turning away from the president and instead considering new leadership. They've become key to the Oct. 7 presidential vote and to opposition presidential candidate Henrique Capriles' strategy.

(AP Photo/Fernando Llano)

tion of new housing projects hasn't kept up with the legions of poor people like Carias who have applied for apartments and ended up waiting for years.

Now Chavez is spending heavily building apartments and paying out more benefits to poor families.

But some in the working class still complain that

63 percent who re-elected him in 2006. The latest poll said 11 percent of those interviewed didn't reveal a preference.

A survey by the Venezuelan polling firm Consultores 21 put the two candidates roughly even, with 46.5 percent saying they would vote for Capriles and nearly 46 percent saying they



Radisson Colleague Appreciation

Event celebrates accomplishments

Palm Beach -- September marks the third Global Responsible Business Action Month at Carlson, a global hospitality and travel company, encompassing the Radisson brand. While yearround Carlson hotels work on behalf of their communities and their colleagues, special additional efforts are made in September, to make the world a better place.

At a recent Colleague Appreciation Event at the Radisson Aruba Resort Casino & Spa members of management recounted some of the successful activities organized, to an audience of colleagues over refreshments and snacks, at a most-enjoyable afternoon party.

Among the activities or-



ganized in honor of World Clean Up Day, on Saturday, a group of colleagues cleaned the area adjacent to the California Dunes. They collected a considerable amount of marine debris from the much-visited stretch of beach below the famed lighthouse.

Also the previous week, two managers from the Department of Human Resources made a donation of books, to seventy-five 4th grade children at Colegio San Hose. Additionally, for the last three years, the hotel, its management and members of staff have become some of the most generous supporters of the World Childhood's Foundation in the region, an initiative of Carlson Hotels, introduced globally.

In 2012, the resort hosted its 4th annual Radisson Aruba Charity Golf Classic on Tierra del Sol's Championship Golf Course. It successfully collected funds for the Aruban cancer foundations and the World Childhood Foundation.

The annual golf event is dedicated to the memory of the late Gary Jutz, who was the Radisson Aruba Resort Casino & Spa General Manager, until mid 2009, when he lost his life in a battle with cancer.

Continued no Page14



Radisson Colleague Appreciation

Continued from Page 13

To increase donations and spread the appeal among those who didn't play golf, guests were asked to donate \$1/night. Consequently, this month, the resort donated over \$48,000 to charity.

Among recipients of donations during the Colleague Appreciation Event were the following local foundations: The Mary Joan Breast Cancer Support Group, Stichting Edmund Harms Foundation & Wilhelmina Kanker Fonds. Other local foundation dedicated to the wellbeing of children in the community also received donations including: The Clown Doctors, Fundacion Telefon pa Hubentud, Stichting Casa Cuna, Stichting Imeldahof & Ban Uni Man Pa Cria Nos Muchanan.

In the upcoming year the resort is hoping to engage more people, and of course, raise more money to help more children at risk, in Aruba and overseas via the World Childhood Foundation.

Notwithstanding the active community work, the resort has also scored very well in the internal Medallia scores, rating high among



full service resorts, and well above the brand average. In the second quarter of the year the Radisson Aruba Resort, Casino & Spa achieved the highest

guest satisfaction scores, also posting the highest improvement rate within regional Carlson hotels. Colleagues enjoyed their afternoon of celebration,



and the refreshments, also looking forward to the visit of the Minister of Tourism Transportation and Labor, the following day, with a presentation regarding the Aruba Certification Program, the Ministry's strate-

gic plan, and its objectives for 2013 in celebration of World Tourism Day. Colleagues also received a free set of movie tickets as a small token of appreciation, at the end of the appreciation party. □

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Melissa De Vuyt

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Well Done is looking for friends and family members

We would like to introduce you to Well Done, one of the donkeys that has found shelter at the Aruban Donkey Sanctuary. Well Done is still a baby, whose mother has left him twice already. For the Sanctuary there is only one solution: to take him in. He is the umptieth donkey that needs food, shelter and loving care. Because the feeding times were every two hours and Well Done needed special soy milk, Well Done found his new home at Desiree's, the manager of the Aruban Donkey Sanctuary. She fed him every two hours, setting the clock in the middle of the night for every next feeding. Yes, a donkey baby is just like a human baby. In the meantime Well Done has grown quite a bit and he is taken to the Sanctuary at regular intervals. This is where he has to live, learning how to survive in a large herd without the sheltering and nurturing of a mother donkey. Well Done is the name that he received from the winner of the 'name the baby' contest. At first he had no name for a month, but he has not suffered one little bit because of that. This beautiful donkey has been provided with a chip, just like all the other donkeys.

On the chip is information about the donkey and its medical history. The donkeys at the sanctuary have a lot of friends with whom they can play all day long. And they love living there: they are well-cared for, they are fed and watered and when they are sick the vet is called. Yes, they are expensive customers for the sanctuary.

The volunteers are trying to cover the various costs with all kinds of activities

and the sale of great donkey memorabilia in the shop. Fortunately, there are also visitors who wish to adopt a donkey,

who buy something at the donkey shop or who make a donation. Thus they help support us. Everyone is welcome to

visit the sanctuary, which has opening hours from 9 am until 4 pm and in the weekend from 10 am until 3. Entry is free of charge

and one can enjoy a soft drink, a cup of coffee or a refreshing ice cream.

The volunteers of the sanctuary are hoping that somebody will adopt this friendly, lovely donkey. Of course the donkey will keep on living at the sanctuary; you only need to pay AWG. 30,- per month for the donkey's keep. With this amount you help support the sanctuary as well as your own donkey. And you will receive a beautiful certificate and a super T-shirt and your name and photo will be posted on our website.

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WILLEMSTAD, Curaçao (September 27, 2012) – Hyatt Regency Curaçao Golf Resort, Spa & Marina today announced that it has been named to the Expedia Insiders' Select® list

be the only hotel in Curaçao recognized on this year's coveted Insiders' Select® list which reflects the feedback from more than 500,000 verified Expedia customer reviews received during 2011, combined with a value rating and the local market expertise of more than 650 Expedia employ-

properties available on Expedia-branded sites worldwide. Insiders' Select helps travelers make confident decisions by identifying the hotels in their destination that have been recognized by other travelers as delivering an excellent overall experience.

"We at Hyatt Regency Cu-

memorable experience," said Flor van der Vaart, general manager for Hyatt Regency Curaçao Golf Resort, Spa and Marina. "It is rewarding to see that commitment has been reflected in our placement on the Insiders' Select list."

Visitors to Expedia® sites can also find Insiders' Se-

com/insidersselect.

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About Hyatt Regency Curaçao Golf Resort, Spa and Marina:

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(Photo)

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Baptist Health International teams with Aruba Heart Foundation for annual heart health event

- Baptist Health experts speak on heart health issues and prevention to medical community and public

MIAMI, FL – September 27, 2012 – Baptist Health International teamed up with the Aruba Heart Foundation to host the Second Annual "Your Heart is in Your Hands" Symposium, on Saturday, September 22, 2012. The event was held at the Renaissance Aruba Resort and Casino and offered information regarding heart attacks and syncope, as well as other heart health-related topics.

More than 300 guests were in attendance to learn

about the importance of promoting prevention and educating the public on heart disease.

With its goal of fostering relationships with health professionals and communities throughout the Caribbean region, Baptist Health South Florida provided Miami-based experts to deliver wide ranging information on overall heart health, prevention and wellness. Baptist Health specialist, Hakop Hrachian, M.D. and Reginald Laroche, supervisor and Clinical Exercise Physiologist of the Cardiac Rehabilitation Department at Baptist Health South Florida's South Miami Hospital,



Left to right: Kathleen Tuitt, Baptist Health International Representative; Reginald Laroche, supervisor and Clinical Exercise Physiologist of the Cardiac Rehabilitation Department at Baptist Health South Florida's South Miami Hospital; Dr. Van Leeuwen, Vice-President Aruba Heart Foundation; Velam Daal, President Aruba Heart Foundation; Sara Marugg, Secretary Aruba Heart Foundation; and Dr. Hakop Hrachian, Electrophysiologist and Cardiologist with Baptist Health South Florida, at the Second Annual "Your Heart is in Your Hands" on September 22, 2012, sponsored by Baptist Health International and Aruba Heart Foundation.

had the honor to share their knowledge with the public and health practitioners in Aruba.

"It was a great opportunity to be in Aruba to share our experience regarding Cardiac Rehabilitation, but to also interact with the people of Aruba and educate the community regarding wellness and prevention initiatives that they can immediately apply to better their lifestyle," added Reginald Laroche.

About Baptist Health South Florida:

Baptist Health South Florida is the largest faith-based, not-for-profit healthcare organization in the region. □



UNLOCKED: Regular refs back

In this Dec. 24, 2011, file photo, referee Ed Hochuli (85) signals during the second quarter of an NFL football game between the Detroit Lions and the San Diego Chargers in Detroit.

Associated Press

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Samantha Stosur of Australia reacts as she defeats Maria Sharapova of Russia during her quarterfinal of the Pan Pacific Open Tennis in Tokyo, Thursday, Sept. 27, 2012.

Associated Press

Sharapova loses to Stosur at Pan Pacific

JIM ARMSTRONG

AP Sports Writer

TOKYO (AP) — Sam Stosur knocked two-time champion Maria Sharapova out of the Pan Pacific Open on Thursday, reaching the semifinals with a 6-4, 7-6 (10) victory over the Russian.

Stosur broke Sharapova to go up 5-3 in the second set but then lost nine straight points as the Russian sent the match to a tiebreaker, which Stosur won on her fifth match point when Sharapova returned long. "I knew that I had lost nine points and was just trying to stop the momentum swing," Stosur said. "I wasn't thinking about the points I lost but was focusing on how I was going to make the next points."

Continued on Page 18



Tigers beat Royals on Peralta's groundout

Detroit Tigers' Andy Dirks makes Kansas City Royals second baseman Irving Falu jump after tagging second base on a Detroit Tigers' Jhonny Peralta fielder's choice in the eighth inning of a baseball game in Detroit, Wednesday, Sept. 26, 2012. Peralta was safe at first base and pinch runner Don Kelly scored on the play.

Associated Press

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Regular refs back; Goodell apologizes to fans

BARRY WILNER

AP Pro Football Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — With the NFL's regular referees returning to action, Commissioner Roger Goodell apologized Thursday to the fans who fretted about the replacements the last three weeks.

After two days of marathon negotiations — and mounting frustration across the league — the NFL and the officials' union announced at midnight Thursday that a tentative eight-year agreement had been reached to end a lockout that began in June.

The regular referees' return couldn't have come soon enough for many players, coaches and fans.

"Obviously when you go through something like this, it's painful for everybody," Goodell said on a conference call about 12 hours after the deal was struck. "Most importantly, it's painful for fans."

We're sorry to have to put fans through that. Sometimes you have to go through something like that in the short term for the right agreement for the long term."

The deal follows the Seattle Seahawks' chaotic last-second win over the Green Bay Packers on Monday night in which the replacement officials struggled. Goodell, who was at the



In this Sept. 5, 2012, file photo, Commissioner Roger Goodell gestures to fans before an NFL football game between the New York Giants and the Dallas Cowboys in East Rutherford, N.J. The NFL and referees' union reached a tentative agreement on Wednesday, Sept. 26, to end a three-month lockout that triggered a wave of frustration and anger over replacement officials and threatened to disrupt the rest of the season. Associated Press

bargaining table Tuesday and Wednesday, said regular officials would officiate the Browns-Ravens game at Baltimore on Thursday night.

The seven-man crew working the game is led by referee Gene Steratore, a 10-year NFL veteran.

"We are glad to be getting back on the field for this week's games," NFL Referees Association President Scott Green said.

The players' union is happy

to have them.

"Our workplace is safer with the return of our professional referees," the NFLPA said in a statement Thursday. "We welcome our fellow union members back on our field."

Plenty of players chimed in, too.

"Never thought I would be excited for the refs to come back to work but it's about time it was definitely necessary!" Cleveland return specialist Josh Cribbs tweeted

Thursday morning.

Added Minnesota punter Chris Kluwe: "It was a noble experiment, but I think ultimately a failed experiment, from what we've seen."

It'll be good not to have to worry about that when we're on the field. It's good that it won't be a distraction anymore."

Shortly after the news broke, Buffalo running back C.J. Spiller tweeted, "Welcome back REFS."

The tentative deal must be

ratified by 51 percent of the union's 121 members. They plan to vote Friday and Saturday in Dallas.

For the Packers, Redskins, Lions and other teams who voiced their displeasure with calls that might have swayed games, the agreement doesn't change their records.

But after having replacements for the first three weeks, triggering a wave of outrage that threatened to disrupt the rest of the season, Titans quarterback Matt Hasselbeck probably spoke for his peers by simply echoing Spiller: "Welcome back." The agreement hinged on working out pension and retirement benefits for the officials, who are part-time employees of the league. The tentative pact calls for their salaries to increase from an average of \$149,000 a year in 2011 to \$173,000 in 2013, rising to \$205,000 by 2019.

Beginning with the 2013 season, the NFL will have the option to hire a number of officials on a full-time basis to work year round, including on the field. The NFL also will be able to retain additional officials for training and development, and can assign those officials to work games. The number of additional officials will be determined by the league. □

Pan Pacific

Continued from Page 17

Top-ranked Victoria Azarenka withdrew after a bout of dizziness in her third-round match on Wednesday, sending Angelique Kerber of Germany to the semifinals.

"Before the tournament on Sunday I was starting to feel

not really good," Azarenka said. "I haven't really been doing better since then. Just low energy, you could tell by the matches I wasn't my usual self. But it took too much energy over the last two matches to really push and today it's just not really possible for me."

Also, Nadia Petrova of Russia, trailing 4-1 in the sec-

ond set, overcame sixth-seeded Sara Errani of Italy 3-6, 7-5, 6-3. She will next face Stosur on Friday.

Defending champion and third-seeded Agnieszka Radwanska of Poland beat former No. 1 Caroline Wozniacki 6-4, 6-3 in the late quarterfinal and will face Kerber in the semifinals on Friday.

For Sharapova, it was only her second loss in 11 matches against Stosur, who has reached her first semifinal match since the French Open.

Sharapova, who won the tournament in Tokyo in 2005 and 2009, struggled with her serve and had five double-faults.

"She played a very steady



Maria Sharapova of Russia reacts during the quarterfinal at the Pan Pacific Open Tennis against Samantha Stosur of Australia in Tokyo, Thursday, Sept. 27, 2012. Associated Press

game and I had a few more unforced errors than I would have liked," Sharapova said. "It's disappointing to lose but you have to take

every disappointment and turn it into a positive. It's really about thinking what I can do to improve for the next tournament." □

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AL Capsules

Tigers win, move above slumping White Sox

he Associated Press

DETROIT (AP) — Jhonny Peralta brought home the go-ahead run when Andy Dirks' hard slide broke up a potential inning-ending double play in the eighth inning and the Detroit Tigers beat the Kansas City Royals 5-4 Wednesday night.

Triple Crown candidate Miguel Cabrera was robbed of a tiebreaking homer in the fifth inning by Alex Gordon's catch above the left-field wall. Detroit, which started the day tied with the Chicago White Sox atop the AL Central for the first time since Sept. 2, found a way to break through the eighth, though. Delmon Young hit an infield single with one out in the eighth off Kelvin Herrera (4-3) and was replaced by Kelly, who stole second base and took third on Dirks' single. Alex Avila hit a two-run homer and Austin Jackson had a solo shot in the fourth inning to tie the game.

Luis Marte got two outs in the fifth and Al Alburquerque gave up only one hit over 2 1-3 innings. Joaquin Benoit (4-3) allowed one hit in the eighth. Jose Valverde closed the game for his 32nd save in 37 chances.

ORIOLES 12, BLUE JAYS 2

BALTIMORE (AP) — Chris Davis and Manny Machado each connected twice and the Baltimore Orioles tied a team record with seven home runs and stayed within 1½ games of the AL East lead.

The Orioles ended a two-game losing skid against the Blue Jays and remained close to the division-leading New York Yankees, who

won 8-2 in Minnesota.

Nate McLouth hit a leadoff shot in the first inning and Jim Thome and Mark Reynolds also homered. Baltimore has hit seven home runs three times, most recently on Aug. 26, 1985.

Davis finished with a career-high five RBIs.

Davis' three-run drive gave the Orioles a five-run inning and finished Carlos Villanueva (7-7).

Miguel Gonzalez (8-4) allowed two runs and five hits in seven innings. He allowed Edwin Encarnacion's 42nd home run with two outs in the top of the first.

INDIANS 6, WHITE SOX 4

CHICAGO (AP) — The slumping Chicago White Sox fell out of the AL Central lead for the first time in two months, walking 12 batters in a loss to Cleveland. Chicago, which has lost seven of eight, had been in sole possession or tied at the top every day since July 24.

But Detroit moved ahead by a game, beating Kansas City 5-4 with a week left in the regular season.

The White Sox have lost 7 of their last 8 and have seven games remaining — four at home against Tampa Bay and three at Cleveland next week. They'll need to regroup in a hurry.

Shin-Soo Choo had a go-ahead RBI grounder in the seventh off Matt Thornton (4-9) and Vinny Rottino hit his first homer for Cleveland in the eighth off Brett Myers. The Indians — who are 21-50 since the All-Star break — won two of three at U.S. Cellular Field.

Tony Sipp (1-2) pitched one-third of an inning for the win and Chris Perez fin-



Kansas City Royals shortstop Alcides Escobar catches a fly ball from Detroit Tigers' Delmon Young over his shoulder in center field in the fifth inning of a baseball game in Detroit, Wednesday, Sept. 26, 2012.

Associated Press

ished in the ninth for his 38th save in 42 chances.

He issued the Indians' sixth walk of the game and after a throwing error by shortstop Brent Lillibridge, he retired Paul Konerko on a fly to shallow left to end it.

RAYS 4, RED SOX 2

BOSTON (AP) — Carlos Pena and Ben Francisco hit back-to-back, tape-measure homers in the fifth inning on Wednesday night to lead the Tampa Bay Rays to their seventh consecutive victory, 4-2 over

the Boston Red Sox.

The Rays remained 3 1-2 games behind Baltimore for second place in the AL East. Tampa Bay began the day three games behind Oakland for the second wild-card spot.

It was the final home game of the season for the Red Sox, and perhaps the last at Fenway Park for Boston manager Bobby Valentine. Hired to inspire a fractious clubhouse after the team went 7-20 last September under Terry Francona, Val-

entine instead presided over what could be the worst Red Sox team since 1965.

Alex Cobb (10-9) allowed one run on three hits and a walk, striking out five in five innings as the Rays matched their longest winning streak of the season. Fernando Rodney pitched the ninth for his 45th save in 47 chances.

Jon Lester (9-14) gave up three runs on four hits and a walk, striking out five in six innings. He didn't allow a hit until Jeff Keppinger singled to left with one out in the fifth, then he gave up back-to-back home runs.

YANKEES 8, TWINS 2

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — C.C. Sabathia struck out 10 batters over eight innings and New York beat remained 1 1/2 games ahead of Baltimore in the AL East.

The Orioles beat Toronto 12-2 on Wednesday night. The Yankees visit the Blue Jays for four games starting Thursday. Baltimore, after an off day, plays Boston at home this weekend.

Sabathia (14-6) threw 89 of his 118 pitches for strikes. Robinson Cano hit a two-run double and Curtis Granderson added a two-run triple during a six-run third inning against Brian Duensing (4-11), and Sabathia took care of the rest. The burly lefty gave up six hits, two runs and one walk.

ANGELS 4, MARINERS 3

ANAHEIM, California (AP) — Torii Hunter's RBI singles tied it in the seventh inning and ended it in the ninth, and the Los Angeles Angels rallied to keep pace in the AL wild-card race with their fifth consecutive victory. □

Mickelson becomes 'the glue guy' of Ryder Cup team

By NANCY ARMOUR

AP National Writer

MEDINAH, Ill. (AP) - Phil Mickelson wants to pad his record, get as many points as he can.

On the ping pong table, that is.

When it comes to the Ryder Cup, Mickelson has become the Americans' "glue guy."

"He's a lot like Tiger. They both came on to the teams trying to win a whole bunch of points. They thought that's what they were supposed to do," U.S. captain Davis Love III said Wednesday.

"Now they just want to win."

The evolution of Mickelson has helped the Americans become more, well, European. It's no secret the Americans haven't always played well with each other, unable to set aside the individual mindsets that make them so successful on the PGA Tour. The U.S. has just one victory in the last five Ryder Cups, and two in the last eight.

Mickelson, the most experienced of the Americans having played every Ryder Cup since 1995, is 11-17-6.



USA's Phil Mickelson hits out of a bunker on the 14th hole during a practice round at the Ryder Cup PGA golf tournament Thursday, Sept. 27, 2012, at the Medinah Country Club in Medinah, Ill. Associated Press

The 2002 Ryder Cup is the last time he won more than one match.

But even the Europeans say this U.S. team seems like a particularly close-knit bunch, and Mickelson - along with fellow veterans Woods and Jim Furyk - deserve some of the credit.

"I can't tell you how many times both Tiger and Phil have said, 'Whatever you

want us to do, we'll do it,'"

Love said. "Phil gets it, and he knows what to say at the right time. He knows when to be serious and give his strategy theories, and he knows when to make a joke and have fun. He and (rookie Brandt Snedeker) have been going back and forth all week, and they're having a great time and he's pulled Brandt in.

"He's great. They're just great. I love being around them," Love said, growing emotional.

It didn't just start this week, either.

For the last few years, Mickelson has made a point of singling out promising young players for money games during practice rounds. The "Phil matches" aren't just for his amusement - though few people can talk smack quite like Lefty - but to get the up-and-comers ready for the big time. He simulates match play conditions, pushes them to go for high-risk shots, yaps at them to test their concentration. And because Mickelson draws a crowd everywhere he goes, he gives the youngsters a look at what it's like to play in the glare of the spotlight.

"The idea is, I want guys playing match play and getting ready for Ryder Cups and Presidents Cups," Mickelson said last year. "I haven't said this to the guys, but that was my thinking when I started playing these matches. And if you'll notice, most of them are young guys who one day are going to be represent-

ing the U.S."

Among the practice group alums? Keegan Bradley, who won the PGA Championship last year and is now a Ryder Cup rookie.

"Playing with Phil helps me every week," Bradley said. "I've always played very well after I've played in a 'Phil match' because he gets your juices flowing, you start putting balls into the hole. ... Without a doubt, he's prepared me for this moment with these matches."

The mentoring goes beyond the course, too. Ask anyone about the team room, and Mickelson's name invariably comes up. He talked of his and Woods' dominance on the ping pong table Wednesday, boasting that few of their U.S. teammates can touch them. "Put us together on that table, and we're rocking it," Mickelson said.

(That's only partly true, Steve Stricker said. Matt Kuchar is actually the Roger Federer of the U.S. ping pong table, and Stricker said Mickelson is putting off that matchup until Sunday. "He doesn't want to get any bad mojo going before the tournament starts." □

UCI cites 'concern' over delay in Lance Armstrong doping case

AIGLE, Switzerland (AP) — Cycling's governing body is losing patience with the U.S. Anti-Doping Agency over delays in turning over evidence in the Lance Armstrong case.

Cycling federation UCI complained Thursday about USADA's "shifting deadline" in providing the files that led it to wipe out Armstrong's seven Tour de France titles and ban him for life. USADA said Wednesday it would send its "reasoned decision" to the UCI by Oct. 15. The files had previously been expected to be turned over by the end of September.

"The UCI had no reason to assume that a full case file did not exist but USADA's continued failure to produce the decision is now

a cause for concern," UCI President Pat McQuaid said in a statement. "It is over a month since USADA sanctioned Lance Armstrong. We thought that USADA were better prepared before initiating these proceedings."

USADA chief executive Travis Tygart questioned the UCI's motives.

"It is not surprising that UCI would send a press release out attempting to undermine and question the substance of our case," Tygart said in an email to The Associated Press. "It is also troubling that they would claim to have had no contact with us, which is inaccurate."

Tygart added that "the questions contained in their publicly released statement

today will be answered."

In August, Armstrong decided not to contest USADA's allegations that he took performance-enhancing drugs to win the Tour de France from 1999-2005. A day later, USADA erased his Tour titles and imposed a lifetime ban. Armstrong, who has always denied doping and points to hundreds of tests that he has passed, has claimed Tygart has a vendetta against him. The UCI has yet to ratify USADA's decision to strip Armstrong, saying it needs to see evidence first. The World Anti-Doping Agency is also waiting to receive the files.

The UCI questioned why USADA didn't spend time during the Tour de France, Olympics and Road World



This July 24, 2005 file photo shows overall leader Lance Armstrong signaling seven for his seventh straight win in the Tour de France cycling race, at the start of the 21st and final stage of the race between Corbeil-Essonnes, south of Paris, and the French capital.

Associated Press

Championships to prepare its case "rather than to make announcements."

"It is at very least unusual that USADA would still be gathering evidence against a person after it has

found that person guilty," the UCI statement said. "The UCI assumes that the reasons for any difficulty in putting the evidence together will be explained in USADA's decision." □

NHL cancels the rest of 2012 preseason games



In this Sept. 13, 2012, file photo, NHL hockey commissioner Gary Bettman listens as he meets with reporters after a meeting with team owners, in New York. Associated Press

IRA PODELL
AP Sports Writer
NEW YORK (AP) — The NHL canceled the rest of the 2012 preseason on Thursday, just a day before negotiations were set to resume in an effort to end the lockout. The league announced its second cancellation of preseason games in a two-sentence statement. NHL owners locked out players on Sept. 16 when the collective bargaining agreement expired. The NHL had already called off all the exhibition games scheduled in September. The regular season is

supposed to begin on Oct. 11. The two sides have scheduled talks on Friday in New York, although they are on secondary economic issues as opposed to the core of the dispute, which is how to split more than \$3 billion in annual revenue. The NHL and the union last met for formal negotiations on Sept. 12, three days before the labor pact that ended the previous lockout — back in 2005 — ran out. Now there is at least a glimmer of optimism as talks are expected to last through the weekend. If a deal isn't reached soon,

regular-season games will be the next thing to be called off, and players will begin to miss paychecks. In the most recent round of talks, both sides exchanged proposals on the core economic issues. The NHL made the last offer that day and said it has been waiting for the NHLPA to make a counteroffer. "Obviously, we've got to talk before you can get a deal, so I think it's important to get the talks going again," NHL Deputy Commissioner Bill Daly said earlier this week. "But you also have to have something to say. I think

it's fair to say we feel like we need to hear from the players' association in a meaningful way because I don't think that they've really moved off their initial proposal, which was made more than a month ago now." As part of their decision to resume talks, the sides agreed to revisit the secondary issues that will have to be ironed out

in the new CBA. Those include, but aren't limited to, grievance procedures, travel, medical care, and pensions and benefits. "We are pleased the league is willing to come back to the bargaining table, and we look forward to Friday's discussions," NHLPA special counsel Steve Fehr said on Tuesday, when the negotiations were scheduled. □

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Joseph Gordon-Levitt Dania Ramirez

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Despite risks, Russians participating in medical experiments

ANDREW E. KRAMER

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MOSCOW — Like a dream patient conjured up in the boardroom of a pharmaceutical company, the Russian grandmother accepted the risks of the drug she was taking without complaint and cheerily endured even extraordinary side effects.

As a test subject in a Russian clinical trial for an experimental weight loss drug, Galina I. Malinina had to inject herself in the stomach daily.

"No problem," she said. "The needle is thin and the dose is small."

The first time she did this at a hospital where long-faced, white-robed doctors stood by and observed her intently, Malinina soon vomited. After that, she threw up every day for two weeks, yet stuck to the regimen, something valued by companies, as dropouts are expensive.

"It's wonderful," she said of the test substance, a weight loss serum under development by the Danish biotechnology giant Novo Nordisk.

In addition to losing 22 pounds in a year, she said, "I became more lively; I walk easier and I have energy."

Malinina's willingness, like that of thousands of other Russians, to take part in drug trials illustrates a remarkably advantageous

development for the international pharmaceutical industry, which is running up against high costs and recruitment difficulties in the United States and Europe.



Folya Gonopolsky, a cardiac patient, takes part in a drug trial for a energy-enhancing substance meant to improve stamina, in Moscow, Sept. 14, 2012. Russian doctors, regulators and patients are volunteering in high numbers to take part in medical experiments.

(Olga Kravets/The New York Times)

Russian regulators, Russian doctors and even many patients are increasingly embracing any chance they can get to take part in medical experiments.

Patients, as was the case with Malinina, are eager to join trials because often it is the only way to receive modern medical care.

That creates a pool of willing test subjects. The government of President Vladimir V. Putin, eager to diversify Russia's economy away

from oil dependence, welcomes the jobs and high-tech investment associated with clinical trials, and has eased access for drug companies to the Russian patients as an incentive to

lure in these benefits.

In fact, under a law passed in 2010, ostensibly on health grounds, foreign drug companies must test medicine on Russians for it to be marketed in Russia.

The law has the effect of compelling investment in clinical testing on Russians, trade groups say. And it is working. The number of drugs tested on Russians has shot up over the past year. Russian regulators approved 448 clinical trials in

the first six months of 2012, compared to 201 in the same period a year earlier — an increase of 96 percent. Russia is not alone in opening the doors of hospitals in the national health system to drug companies looking for test subjects, in a quid pro quo with the international industry that conducts tests globally for a better demographic representation.

Testing in Russia is a net benefit to public health, pouring hundreds of millions of dollars into diagnostic work and doctor care that would not have been here otherwise. Much of the business swirls around lower-risk testing of generic replacements for brand-name drugs.

Singapore, South Korea and China are among countries offering incentives or compelling companies to conduct clinical trials locally, John Lewis, the vice president for the Association of Clinical Research Organizations, a trade group, said in a telephone interview from Washington. Ethically, if a clinical trial will most likely improve a patient's health — for whatever reason, including because the patient lacks access to standard, already accepted care — a doctor should admit the patient to the trial.

"We see a lot of governments encouraging testing for economic benefits, for

health care benefits and for innovation benefits," he said.

Drug companies benefit, too, though the association does not endorse that motive.

"Clinical trials should be viewed as experiments, as investigations, not as treatment," Lewis said.

A host of pharmaceutical companies operate in Russia, including Bayer, Bristol-Myers Squibb, Eli Lilly, Novartis, Novo Nordisk and Pfizer. The companies use the results of trials in Russia, as elsewhere, to help win approval from the U.S. Food and Drug Administration.

Companies have turned to Russia in particular to test experimental psychiatric medicines, sometimes in the same mental health wards once used to inter Soviet dissidents. There is no indication that political detainees are used today in drug testing.

But there have been strange results. In 2007, an FDA official wrote that the agency approved Eli Lilly's top-selling antipsychotic drug Zyprexa for use by adolescents based on the results of a Russian test, even though U.S. trials showed the drug had no effect. Why tests differed in Russia and the United States was never explained. Doctors now routinely prescribe the drug for American adolescents. □

WHO urges docs to watch for new SARS-like virus

MARIA CHENG

AP Medical Writer

LONDON (AP) — Global health officials have alerted doctors to be on the lookout for a virus related to SARS but said there were no signs the disease was behaving like the respiratory syndrome that killed hundreds in 2003.

The World Health Organization announced this week that a new coronavirus had been found in a critically ill Qatari man who was being treated in London as well as in a Saudi Arabian man who died several months earlier.

Genetic sequencing found the viruses in the two men to be nearly identical. The two men might have been infected directly by animals, however, and there was no proof of human-to-human spread of the virus, WHO spokesman Gregory Hartl said Thursday.

"This is not SARS, it is a new virus and very distinct from SARS," he said. "There are still a lot of unanswered questions, so we cannot predict what might happen."

Hartl said WHO could not elaborate on the men's

cases until investigations by national authorities were finished. The new coronavirus is from a family of viruses that cause the common cold as well as SARS, the severe acute respiratory syndrome that killed about 800 people, mostly in Asia in a 2003 epidemic. SARS jumped to people from civet cats and then mutated into a form easily spread among humans. Unlike SARS, the new virus also causes rapid kidney failure, a complication not usually seen in respiratory viruses. In London, the Qa-

tari patient is in critical but stable condition and is being treated with an artificial lung machine. Hartl said WHO is monitoring reports of suspect cases but none have so far been confirmed. Britain's Health Protection Agency said a small number of potential cases were being evaluated. On Wednesday, Danish authorities ruled out a handful of cases. WHO also issued a case definition for the new virus to help doctors spot cases early. The agency advised them to investigate any patients hospital-

ized with acute respiratory syndrome not explained by other causes who had close contact with probable cases or had recently traveled to Saudi Arabia or Qatar. Saudi officials said they were concerned that the next month's annual Muslim Hajj pilgrimage — which brings millions to Saudi Arabia from all around the world — could allow the virus to spread. As a precautionary measure, they advised pilgrims to keep their hands clean and wear masks in crowded places. □

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Intel previews tablets powered by its new chip

MICHAEL LIEDTKE

AP Technology Writer

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) —

Intel previewed a wave of tablet computers powered by a microprocessor that the company redesigned to make a bigger dent in the rapidly growing mobile market. An assortment of major computer vendors made the tablets that were shown Thursday in San Francisco. All the devices depend on Intel Corp.'s new processor and Windows 8, a dramatic overhaul of the widely used operating system made by Microsoft Corp. The tablets won't go on sale until October 26 when Windows 8 is released. The prices for the various machines will be revealed during the next few weeks. Intel held the event in an attempt to prove it's adapting to the market upheaval caused by the increasing popularity of smartphones and tablets such as Apple Inc.'s iPad.

The shift to mobile devices poses a threat to Intel because its previous chip designs weren't well suited for the needs of smartphones and mobile devices. As a result, Intel's sales are now falling as demand for its personal-computer microprocessors tapers off.

Intel's new tablet chip, code named "Clover Trail" while it was in development, is called the Atom Z2760. It boasts a dual-processing feature that makes tablets run faster and with low power consumption so the battery life of a device should last 10 hours while it's showing video or per-

forming other tasks.

The chips that Intel makes for PC devour more power, making them ill-equipped for tablets that are often used for long stretches without a recharge. That's one of the main reasons Apple and other tablet makers have shunned Intel's chips. Like Intel, PC makers are counting on Windows 8 to give them a slice of a market that so far has been dominated by the iPad. Most of the other tablets that are siphoning sales from the iPad are running on Android, a free operating system made by Google Inc.

Windows 8 presents applications in a mosaic of tiles to allow for touch-screen navigation and highlight real-time information from the Internet. The revamped operating system also can be adjusted to work on traditional laptop and desktop computers with keyboards. That versatility is meant to appeal to office workers and other people who want to use their ma-

chines to create content, as well as consume it.

To cater to that market, some tablet makers are designed hybrid machines that include a keyboard that can be untethered from the display screen.

Erik Reid, an executive in Intel's mobile and communications group who orchestrated Thursday's showcase, described Windows 8 as a breakthrough that "offers an incredible and exciting opportunity to drive new innovation in the marketplace."

The flattery came after Bloomberg News reported Intel CEO Paul Otellini's apparent misgivings about the new operating system. In a meeting earlier this week with Intel employees in Taiwan, Otellini said he believes Microsoft is releasing Windows 8 before all the bugs are fixed, according to Bloomberg, which quoted an unnamed person who heard the remarks. The manufacturers who have built tablets and hybrid machines running on

Gates: New Windows 8 system is 'very exciting'

EDITH M. LEDERER

Associated PressNEW YORK

(AP) — Microsoft founder Bill Gates on Thursday called the new Windows 8 operating system scheduled for release next month "a very exciting new product" and "a very big deal" for the world's largest software maker.

Gates said in an interview

with The Associated Press that he is already using Windows 8 "and I'm very pleased with it."

Windows 8 is Microsoft's biggest overhaul of Windows in more than a decade and the company's attempt to stay relevant and exciting in a world where mobile gadgets have started to overshadow personal computers. □



Tom Butler, Director of Lenovo ThinkPad Marketing, speaks while holding a Lenovo tablet Thursday, Sept. 27, 2012, in San Francisco.

Associated

Press

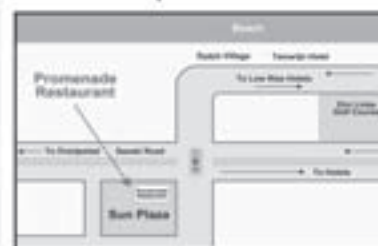
Intel's new chip include Hewlett-Packard Co., Dell Inc., Lenovo Group, Asustek Computer Inc. and

Samsung Electronics Co. Intel shares gained 44 cents Thursday to close at \$23.09. □

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Spain, China help stocks snap losing streak

NEW YORK (AP) — Stocks notched their first gain of the week Thursday after Spain announced severe budget cuts intended to convince the world that it can meet deficit-reduction targets.

It was the best day for the U.S. market since Sept. 13, when Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke announced further steps by the central bank to speed the economic recovery.

Stocks were also helped by speculation that the central bank of China will act soon to help the world's No. 2 economy.

The Dow Jones industrial average climbed 72.46 points, or 0.5 percent, to close at 13,485.97. It was the Dow's first gain in five trading sessions. The average was up as much as 109 points after the Spain announcement. The Standard & Poor's 500 index, after five days of declines, closed up 13.83 points, or just shy of 1 percent, at 1,447.15. The Nasdaq composite index rose 42.90 points to 3,136.60.

The Nasdaq and S&P were



In this Monday, Sept. 24, 2012, photo, a Discover logo is adhered to a window at the entrance of a shop in Cambridge, Mass. Discover Financial Services said Thursday, Sept. 27, 2012, its net income fell 3 percent in its fiscal third quarter, but the result beat Wall Street expectations as credit card use increased and more customers paid off their card balances on time.

(AP Photo/Steven Senne)

helped by a jump in Apple stock, reversing three days of declines. Apple gained \$16.14, or 2.4 percent, to \$681.32 despite an analyst's report reducing estimates for shipments of iPhones later this year.

As fear grew that Spain will need an international bailout, the finance minister said a draft budget for 2013 cuts overall spending

by €40 billion, or about \$51 billion. He said cuts for ministries would average almost 9 percent.

The cuts are meant to show

world investors and other countries that Spain can meet fiscal targets. The budget unveiling, shortly before noon EDT, lifted the U.S. stock market from what had been only modest gains.

"That's the only major thing that's happened," said Dan Greenhaus, chief global strategist for the brokerage BTIG. "It's an excuse to rally the stock market."

Technology stocks and energy companies made the biggest gains. Utility stocks, which tend to do well when investors are fearful, were the only industry group in the S&P to fall.

The market gains started earlier, in Asia, helped by expectations that the People's Bank of China will act soon. China's big-

gest steelmaker said Thursday it has shut down a mill in Shanghai, a sign of weakening growth.

Stocks rose 0.5 percent in Japan and 1.1 percent in Hong Kong.

In Europe, stocks came back from one of their worst days in months. The benchmark stock index finished 0.7 percent higher in France and 0.2 percent higher in Germany and Britain.

Borrowing costs for financially troubled Spain and Italy also edged down, a positive sign.

In the U.S., demand for government bonds fell, generally an indication that investors are more willing to embrace risk. The yield on the 10-year note, which moves opposite the price, rose 0.03 percentage point to 1.65 percent. □

RIM posts big loss; stock surges

ROB GILLIES
Associated Press

TORONTO (AP) — BlackBerry-maker Research In Motion posted another large loss in the second quarter on Thursday but not as bad as analysts expected.

RIM's stock surged more than 18 percent to \$8.44 in after-hours trading.

The company reported Thursday that it lost \$235 million, or 45 cents a share, in

its fiscal second quarter, which ended Sept. 1. That compares with a profit of \$419 million, or 80 cents per share, a year ago.

RIM reported revenue of \$2.9 billion. Analysts polled by FactSet expected a loss of 47 cents on revenue of \$2.49 billion.

RIM said it shipped 7.4 million BlackBerry smartphones in the quarter, down from 10.6 million in

the same period last year. Some analysts predicted RIM would ship about 6.4 million as the company prepares to launch new BlackBerrys deemed critical to its survival.

The Canadian company has struggled in recent years to compete with flashier phones like Apple's iPhone and phones running Google's Android software. □

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Street Briefs

SEC takes heat from Geithner

WASHINGTON (AP) — Treasury Secretary Timothy Geithner is putting pressure on the Securities and Exchange Commission to overhaul its rules for money-market mutual funds. Geithner sent a letter Thursday to members of the Financial Stability Oversight Council seeking their help in pressuring the SEC to change its rules. Geithner, who heads the panel, said the changes are necessary to protect the system. SEC Chairman Mary Schapiro has pushed for the changes. But she abandoned them last month because three of the agency's five commissioners oppose new rules. The changes were sought after a big fund collapsed during the 2008 financial crisis. One proposed change would require funds have capital cushions, like banks. The SEC would be required to adopt the council's recommended changes or explain why it failed to act. □

Oil gains almost \$2 after declines

NEW YORK (AP) — The price of oil gained almost \$2 per barrel Thursday after three straight days of declines. A positive report on the U.S. job market, signs that Spain can meet its deficit-cutting targets and hope the central bank of China will act soon to help that country's economy contributed to oil's biggest gain in nearly two months. Benchmark oil gained \$1.87, or 2.1 percent, to finish at \$91.85 per barrel on the New York Mercantile Exchange. The last time crude posted a bigger gain was Aug. 3. The Labor Department said the number of Americans seeking unemployment benefits plunged 26,000 last week to a seasonally adjusted 359,000, the lowest level in nine weeks. Any sign of an improving U.S. economy can drive energy prices higher. □

US unemployment aid applications at 2-month low

CHRISTOPHER S. RUGABER
AP Economics Writer
WASHINGTON (AP) — The number of Americans seeking unemployment benefits plunged 26,000 last week to a seasonally adjusted 359,000, a hopeful sign for the job market. It's the lowest level of weekly applications in nine weeks. The Labor Department said Thursday that the four-week average, a less volatile measure, declined 4,500 to 374,000. That's the first drop in six weeks. Weekly unemployment applications are a measure of the pace of layoffs. When they consistently fall below 375,000, it typically indicates that hiring is strong enough to lower the unemployment rate. The weekly figures can be volatile, causing most economists to focus on the four-week average. Economists were mildly en-

couraged by the figures. Still, many still expect the government's employment report for September to show only modest job gains,

perhaps about 100,000. That's about the same as in August. The September jobs report will be released next week.



In this Monday, Sept. 17, 2012, file photo, job applicants wait for the opening of a job fair held by National Career Fairs in Fort Lauderdale, Fla. A spate of data released Thursday, Sept. 27, 2012, painted a mixed picture of the U.S. economy. Demand for long-lasting manufactured goods fell and slightly fewer people signed contracts to buy homes. At the same time, the job market looked a little better. Taken together, the reports suggest the economy is growing only modestly and not quickly enough to spur much hiring. (AP Photo/Lynne Sladky)

The past few reports on applications for unemployment benefits "suggest no significant acceleration or deceleration in employment growth," said Jim O'Sullivan, an economist at High Frequency Economics. An improving jobs picture can improve the re-election chances for President Barack Obama and complicate the political strategy for Republican challenger Mitt Romney competing for the right to replace him. Republicans seeking the White House have accused Obama of failing to steer the economy out of a deep recession, setting up the health of the U.S. economy as a pivotal issue in the 2012 election. Other economic figures released Thursday were mainly disappointing. Businesses cut orders for long-lasting manufactured goods in August. □

Nike 1st quarter net income falls

BEAVERTON, Oregon (AP) — Nike said Thursday its fiscal first-quarter net income fell 12 percent as higher sales of its clothing and footwear brands was offset by higher costs and increased ad spending. Results beat expectations but shares fell 2 percent in aftermarket trading as investors worried about a slowing of futures orders, which indicate future de-

mand. Nike, like other consumer products makers, is facing high costs for materials and labor, as well as an uncertain economy in Europe and a slowdown in China. The world's largest athletic shoe and clothing company says net income for the three months ended Aug. 31 fell to \$567 million, or \$1.23 per share. That compares with net income

of \$645 million, or \$1.36 per share, last year. Analysts expected the company to earn \$1.12 per share. Revenue rose 10 percent to \$6.67 billion from \$6.08 billion last year. Analysts expected \$6.43 billion. Revenue jumped 23 percent in North America, Nike's largest market, to \$2.7 billion. In Europe, revenue fell 5 percent to \$1.17 billion. In China, revenue rose 8 percent to \$572 mil-

lion. Selling and administrative expenses rose 18 percent as the company spent heavily on marketing for the Olympics and the European Football Championships. Futures orders, that is orders scheduled for delivery between September 2012 through January 2013, rose 6 percent, compared with a 16 percent increase in the same quarter last year.

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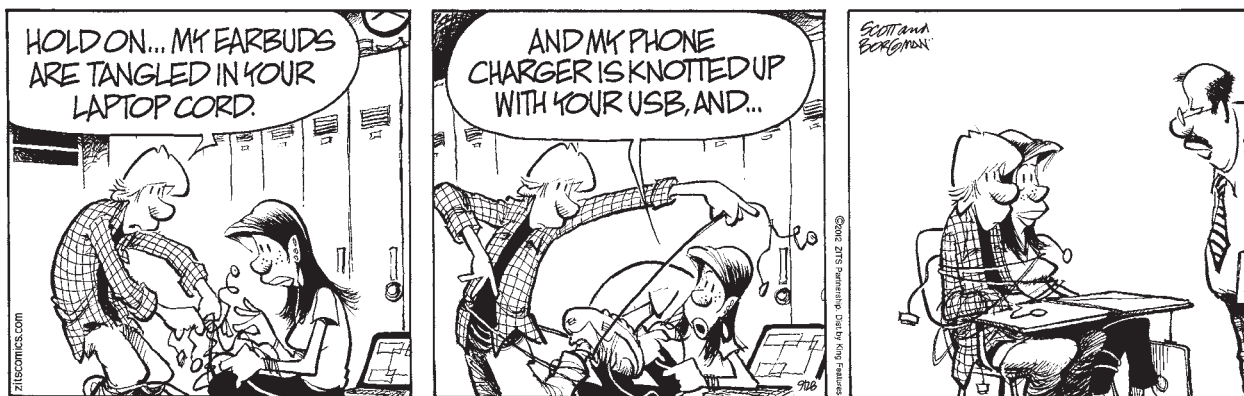
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Conceptis Sudoku

		7		2		3		
	9		3		4		8	
	6	8				1	2	
9			7		2			4
	7	2				5	3	
	4		5		8		7	
		3		1		2		

Difficulty Level ★★★★★

9/28

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

Yesterday's puzzle answer

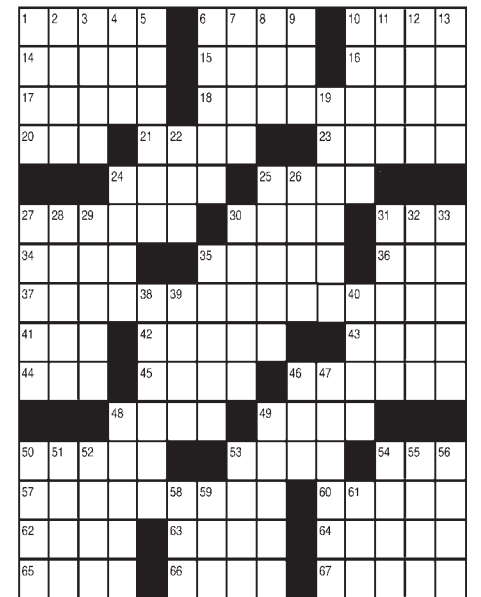
8	2	6	1	7	3	5	4	9
3	7	5	9	2	4	6	8	1
9	4	1	6	8	5	7	2	3
2	6	3	4	5	7	9	1	8
5	1	9	8	3	6	2	7	4
4	8	7	2	9	1	3	6	5
1	3	8	7	6	9	4	5	2
6	9	2	5	4	8	1	3	7
7	5	4	3	1	2	8	9	6

ACROSS

- on; watches from hiding
- Use a wet mop
- Invoice
- Spanish mother
- Threesome
- Huge continent
- "Rigoletto" or "Carmen"
- Slipping, after having reformed
- Helium or neon
- Astonish
- Skating ovals
- Wander
- Stratford-upon-Avon; birthplace of Shakespeare
- Be present at
- Abel's brother
- Massage
- Spike & Peggy
- 24 ___ gold
- Orangutan, e.g.
- Doctor for one with glaucoma
- Charge
- Martian, e.g.
- Individuals
- Ernie Els' peg
- City in Nevada
- Comfortably warm
- Police spray
- Poet Alfred, ___ Tennyson
- "Bye, Juan!"
- Regretted
- Mischief-maker
- Holy city
- Follow
- Invites
- Ooze
- Moves on wheels
- Stand up
- Buddies
- Sugary

DOWN

- Air pollution
- Daddy
- "Beware the ___ of March"
- Goof up
- Fall or winter



Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews

9/28/12

Thursday's Puzzle Solved

S	H	I	P	S	P	R	A	Y	S	C	A	M
N	O	N	E	P	E	A	C	E	H	O	S	E
O	M	I	T	R	A	C	E	T	R	A	C	K
B	E	T	J	E	R	K	A	B	A	S	H	
I	D	E	A	L	J	I	B					
S	T	A	Y	E	D		B	A	N	Y	A	N
E	A	T	E	R	G	A	U	D	Y	C	O	O
A	M	I	D	C	R	U	D	E	S	T	I	R
L	E	O	S	O	A	K	S	G	U	I	S	E
S	N	A	P	P		P	E	E	V	E	S	
T	O	E	M	E	N	S	A					
I	D	A	H	O	G	A	T	E	T	O	T	
D	E	C	E	L	E	R	A	T	E	V	I	N
E	A	R	N	R	U	L	E	R	I	N	C	A
A	R	E	A	R	E	A	S	A	G	E	S	

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9/28/12

- Egg on
- the line; be obedient
- Commands
- Small rodent
- Features of poorly mashed potatoes
- Slightly open
- Mr. Arnaz
- Peeves
- Become dizzy
- of Capri
- Pack animal
- Nuisance
- Biting viper
- Grassy area
- At this moment

A third of U.S. public fears police use of drones

JOAN LOWY
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — More than a third of Americans worry their privacy will suffer if drones like those used to spy on U.S. enemies overseas become the latest police tool for tracking suspected criminals at home, according to an Associated Press-National Constitution Center poll. Congress has directed the Federal Aviation Administration to come up with safety regulations that will clear the way for routine domestic use of unmanned aircraft within the next three years. The government is under pressure from a wide range of interests to open U.S. skies to drones.

Oil companies want them to monitor pipelines. Environmentalists want them to count sea lions on remote islands. Farmers want them to fly over crops with sensors that can detect which fields are wet and which need watering. They're already being used to help fight forest fires. And the list goes on.

Manufacturers are also keen to cash in on what they expect to be a burgeoning new drone market. Government and commercial drone-related expenditures are forecast to total \$89 billion worldwide over the next decade.

On the leading edge of that new market are state and local police departments, who say that in many cases drones are cheaper, more practical and more effective than manned aircraft. Most of them would be small drones, generally weighing less than 55 pounds (25 kilograms). They could be used, for example, to search for missing children or to scout a location ahead of a police raid. But privacy advocates caution that drones equipped with powerful cameras, including the latest infrared cameras that can "see" through walls, listening de-



This Sept. 2011 photo provided by Vanguard Defense Industries, shows a ShadowHawk drone with Montgomery County, Texas, SWAT team members.

Associated Press

vices and other information-gathering technology raise the specter of a surveillance society in which the activities of ordinary citizens are monitored and recorded by the authorities.

Nearly half the public, 44 percent, supports allowing police forces inside the U.S. to use drones to assist police work, but a significant minority — 36 percent — say they "strongly oppose" or "somewhat oppose" police use of drones, according to a survey last month. When asked if they were concerned that police departments' use of drones for surveillance might cause them to lose privacy, 35 percent of respondents said they were "extremely concerned" or "very concerned." An almost identical share, 36 percent, said they were "not too concerned" or "not concerned at all."

Twenty-four percent fell in the middle, saying they were "somewhat concerned" about a potential loss of personal privacy. David Eisner, president and chief executive of the con-

stitution center in Philadelphia, said he was surprised by the level of support for police use of drones.

"I had assumed that the idea that American police would be using the same technology that our military is using in Afghanistan would garner an almost hysterical response," Eisner said. Support for drone use "shows that people are feeling less physically secure than they'd like to because they are willing to accept fairly extreme police action to improve that security."

There was a gender gap in the poll, with men were more concerned about a loss of privacy if police start using drones than women — 40 percent to 30 percent. There was an even wider gap between white and black respondents, with 48 percent of blacks strongly concerned about a loss of privacy compared to 32 percent of whites.

Responding to public concern, a drone industry trade group and the International Association of Police Chiefs have separately released voluntary guide-

lines for drone use in recent months.

"A lot of the public doesn't understand how the technology is being used," said Gretchen West, vice president of the Association for Unmanned Vehicle Systems International. "Law enforcement use (drones) to do the same thing they've used manned aircraft for years, it's just that (drones) are more affordable and usually a more efficient option."

The National Constitution Center is a nonpartisan, nonprofit organization that operates a Philadelphia museum and other educational programs about the Constitution.

The AP-NCC Poll was conducted by GfK Roper Public Affairs & Corporate Communications from Aug. 16-20, using landline and cell-phone interviews with 1,006 randomly chosen adults. The margin of sampling error was plus or minus 3.9 percentage points. □

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Associated Press

The new work is aimed at

And there are other potential uses, too Rogers suggested. For example, such devices could be scattered near a chemical spill to monitor things like chemical concentrations without any need to retrieve them later. □

The meteorite was officially discovered in 1913, but Buchner said the statue could be 1,000 years old and represent a Buddhist god called Vaisravana. The Nazis were probably attracted to it by a left-facing swastika symbol on its front. □

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'Sons of Anarchy' actor suspected of killing woman

ROBERT JABLON
Associated Press

LOS ANGELES (AP) — An actor whose character died a violent death on the TV drama "Sons of Anarchy" plunged to his death in a driveway after apparently killing his landlady and attacking neighbors near Hollywood, police said Thursday.

Johnny Lewis, who played Kip "Half-Sack" Epps in the FX show, is the only suspect in the death of 81-year-old Catherine Davis, according to Los Angeles police. Authorities found them dead Wednesday morning after neighbors reported a woman screaming inside the home, Cmdr. Andrew Smith said.

The home was ransacked, glass was shattered and a dead cat was found. Neighbors said a man had jumped a fence and assaulted a painter and homeowner next door.

The body of Lewis, 28, was found in the driveway. He could have jumped or fallen from the roof, garage or balcony, or tumbled down stairs from a patio area, Smith said.

It appears Davis had been beaten, Smith added. Because of the circumstances, investigators were checking whether Lewis was on drugs or had mental health issues, Smith said. Lewis' attorney Jonathan Mandel said the actor did have serious mental issues that seemed to surface fairly recently.

He said Lewis' parents and others had tried desperately to help him.

"Johnny Lewis had a lot of problems, a lot of mental problems," Mandel said by phone Thursday. "I recommended treatment for him but he declined it."

He continued, saying: "I give a lot of credit to his parents.

They were really strong in trying to help him out. They really went to bat for him, but I guess they just couldn't do enough."

Lewis was released from Los Angeles County Jail a week ago, according to court records.

He had pleaded no con-

test to assault with a deadly weapon and attempted burglary in separate cases this year and was enrolled in a drug, alcohol and psychiatric treatment program over the summer, according to the records.

In the assault case, two men reported that Lewis hit them in the head with a bottle in January, according to a probation report. The injuries were described as minor, but a probation officer wrote, "Obviously defendant's behavior is out of control and needs counseling afforded by a professional."

The report states that Lewis had been earning about \$20,000 a year as an actor in recent years, but that probation officials had not interviewed him.

He was living with his parents in their San Fernando Valley at the time of his arrest. When he was sen-

tenced in September, Lewis was on informal probation on another battery and resisting arrest case filed in February.

As a condition of his probation in both cases, he was ordered to stay away from narcotics.

Lewis' career spanned more than a decade, mainly in small roles. He played Ricky in the 2007 movie "AVPR: Aliens vs Predator — Requiem" and was Dennis "Chili" Childress for two seasons on TV's "The O.C." He also appeared in episodes of such popular television shows as "Boston Public," "Judging Amy," "Malcolm in the Middle" and "Drake & Josh."

He was on "Sons of Anarchy" in 2008 and 2009 before his character was killed off.

Kurt Sutter, the show's creator and executive producer, tweeted news of



This Sept. 14, 2011 file photo shows actor Johnny Lewis posing for a portrait during the 36th Toronto International Film Festival in Toronto, Canada.

Associated Press

Lewis' death Thursday: "It was a tragic end for an extremely talented guy, who unfortunately had lost his way," Sutter wrote. "I wish I could say that I was shocked by the events last night, but I was not. I am deeply sorry that an innocent life had to be thrown into his destructive path." □



In this Feb. 13, 2011 file photo, singer Whitney Houston performs at the pre-Grammy gala & salute to industry icons with Clive Davis honoring David Geffen in Beverly Hills, Calif.

Associated Press

Celine Dion, Usher to perform for Houston special

NEW YORK (AP) — Celine Dion, Jennifer Hudson and Usher will pay tribute to the late Whitney Houston in a one-hour TV special. "We Will Always Love You: A Grammy Salute to Whitney Houston" will tape Oct. 11. It will air Nov. 16 on CBS.

The Recording Academy announced Thursday that the special will include Houston's "most memorable performances" and interviews with various artists. More performers will be announced.

Houston died at age 48 in February. Authorities called her death an accidental drowning, complicated by heart disease and cocaine use.

The compilation album, "I Will Always Love You - The Best of Whitney Houston," will be released on Nov. 13. □

Washington more than a love interest on 'Scandal'

ALICIA RANCILIO
Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — When it comes to playing the girlfriend or wife in a Hollywood role, Kerry Washington has been there, done that.

Not that she's complaining. She's played the love interest of some noteworthy characters.

"I've been pretty lucky," Washington said in a recent interview. "I've played the wife of some pretty incredible people. Two men who have Oscars." (She was Forest Whitaker's spouse in "The Last King of Scotland" and the wife of Jamie Foxx in "Ray," the life of Ray Charles.)

Washington moves front and center as the star of the ABC series "Scandal." Or, as Washington puts it: "not the love interest but has a love interest."

She plays Olivia Pope, a professional "fixer" in Washington, D.C., who helps people in crisis.

Think the premise is con-



This Sept. 20, 2012 photo shows American actress Kerry Washington posing for a portrait in New York.

Associated Press

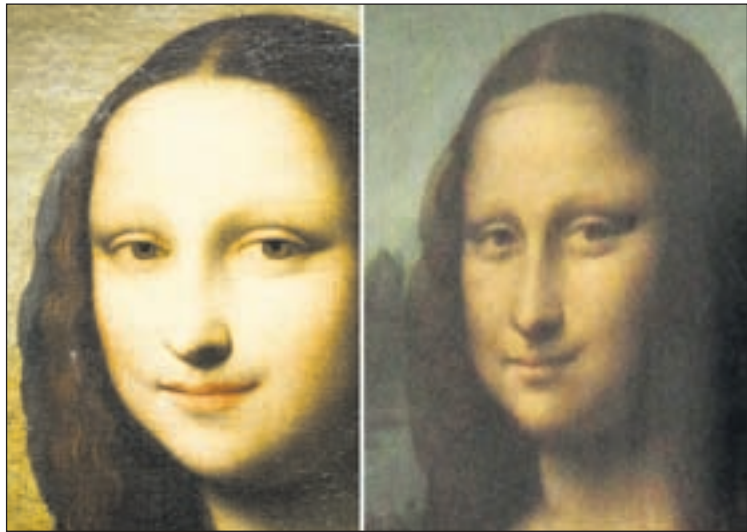
trived? The role is based on one of the show's executive producers, Judy Smith, who is a professional problem solver.

"When some scandal unfolds, if I hear that it's in another state or another country, I'm like, 'Where are you, Judy? Are you in Italy?' She's like, 'I cannot say.' I'm like, 'Come on! Are you in Texas?' 'I can't tell you!' So it's fun to play 'Where in the world is Judy Smith' sometimes," said Washington, with a laugh.

"Scandal," which premieres its second season Thursday, debuted on ABC last April as a midseason show.

Washington, 35, spent the time between production on the show's first and second seasons shooting the slavery movie "Django Unchained," which opens Christmas Day. Written and directed by Quentin Tarantino, the film reunites Washington with her "Ray" co-star Foxx in the role of (you guessed it) his wife. □

Isleworth Mona Lisa conjures new art world mystery



This combination of two photos shows on the left, a painting attributed to Leonardo da Vinci representing Mona Lisa, displayed during a presentation in Geneva, Switzerland, Thursday, Sept. 27, 2012 and on the right a 2004 file photo of the Mona Lisa painting by Da Vinci hanging in the Louvre in Paris.

Associated Press

JAMEY KEATEN

Associated Press

GENEVA (AP) — The mystery behind the most enigmatic smile in art — Leonardo da Vinci's "Mona Lisa" — just got a little more complicated.

In a coming-out party of sorts in Geneva, rounds of flashbulbs popped Thursday as the nonprofit Mona Lisa Foundation pulled

back the curtain to present what it claims is a predecessor of the world's most famous portrait.

But even the experts brought in by the foundation weren't sure about that claim just yet.

The art world is prone to all sorts of rumors and speculation — and, periodically — discoveries that jolt accepted norms. Two years

ago, a retired French electrician claimed that he had turned up 271 Picasso works that had been sitting for decades in his garage — and Picasso's heirs claimed theft.

But a new claim about the world's most famous painting, which draws millions of visitors to Paris' Louvre Museum each year, resonates like a thunderclap in the art world. It also prompts a new look at a painting that all by itself still raises a lot of questions for experts — not least the timeless "Is she smiling or not?"

The "Isleworth Mona Lisa" features a dark-haired young woman with her arms crossed against a distant backdrop. The foundation insists it's no copy but an earlier version of the Louvre masterpiece.

At the presentation, Alessandro Vezzosi, director of the Museo Ideale Leonardo da Vinci, said the painting was intriguing but needs further study. He declined to line up behind the foundation's claims that it was

truly a "Mona Lisa" predecessor painted by da Vinci. "The Isleworth Mona Lisa is an important work of art deserving respect and strong consideration — as well as a scientific, historic and artistic debate among specialists rather than a purely media interest," he said.

"Scientific tests don't demonstrate the authenticity (and) the autography of a painting, but demonstrate it's from a certain era, whether the techniques are similar or not," Vezzosi told The Associated Press in French. "Here, there are many open questions," before waving his hand over the painting, as a security guard with folded arms stood nearby.

Ever since the 16th century, several historical sources suggest that da Vinci painted two "Mona Lisa" versions. One was of Mona Lisa Gherardo around 1503 that was commissioned by her husband, Francesco del Giocondo, the foundation said. Another — the one in the Louvre — was com-

pleted in 1517 for Giuliano de Medici, da Vinci's patron. That theory fits with da Vinci's tendency at times to paint two versions of some of his works, like the Virgin of the Rocks, the group said.

Foundation members say it's unrealistic to think that the woman sat twice for a portrait, but that the meticulous, mathematical approach suggested that Da Vinci may have projected in his mind what she would have looked like between the first alleged "Mona Lisa" and the "Mona Lisa" in the Louvre.

However, the foundation acknowledged that the "Isleworth Mona Lisa" remains unfinished, and that da Vinci didn't paint all parts of the work. Still, the group pointed to newly discovered evidence in 2005 from Heidelberg, Germany, that suggested da Vinci was working on at least the head of such a painting in 1503.

The painting has been in headlines before, starting in the early 20th century. □

Web Video

A cathartic cup of coffee for 2 old TV neighbors

JAKE COYLE

AP Entertainment Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — For two old TV neighbors, all that's needed for a therapeutic reunion is a ride and a cup of Joe.

On an emotional season finale of Jerry Seinfeld's Web series, "Comedians in Cars Getting Coffee," Michael Richards recalls the infamous heckling incident in 2006 that he says "broke me down." The episode, which was shared with The Associated Press ahead of its online premiere Thursday evening, is a cathartic get-together for Richards, whose Kramer was hardly separated from Seinfeld by a door in the nine years of "Seinfeld."

It's one of the few times Richards has appeared in anything since, during a stand-up routine, he answered a heckler with racist slurs. Years later, Richards is clearly still scarred from the



his undated image released by Columbus 81 Productions shows comedians Jerry Seinfeld, left, and Michael Richards, former co-stars in the popular comedy "Seinfeld," in a scene from the finale of Seinfeld's web series, "Comedians in Cars Getting Coffee."

Associated Press

incident, for which he has repeatedly apologized and which essentially caused his withdrawal from show business.

"I busted up after that event seven years ago," Richards tells Seinfeld over a cup of coffee in Los Angeles. "It broke me down. It was a selfish response. I took it too personally. I should have just said, 'Yeah, you're ab-

solutely right. I'm not funny.'"

The title of "Comedians in Cars Getting Coffee" relates its simple premise: Seinfeld, an avid automobile collector, picks up his guest in a car befitting the guest's personality. For Richards, Seinfeld selected a rusty 1962 VW bus with an interior patched together by duct tape.

"This is you, Michael," introduces Seinfeld.

Seinfeld launched the series with little fanfare, letting it pop up on the Internet on its own site, on Facebook and on the Sony-owned digital network Crackle. With guests like Ricky Gervais and Alec Baldwin, the 15-minute episodes offer a stylized snapshot of comedians in conversation. One guest, "Seinfeld" co-creator Larry David, observed that Seinfeld had "finally done a show about nothing."

But the heartfelt and tender Richards episode is an exception. It begins, though, with Richards exuberant at being back together with his old co-star. (In 2009, both also joined in the "Seinfeld" reunion on David's "Curb Your Enthusiasm.")

"Being around you, Jerry, I'm going to turn into that crazy character," says Richards, who later adds that he

could have played Kramer "for the rest of my life."

In true Kramer fashion, Richards leads Seinfeld to what he claims is the boxing legend Sugar Ray Leonard's home, calling out "Sugar!" from outside. It's quickly revealed that Richards neither knows Leonard nor where he lives, and that the house is, in fact, comedian Jay Mohr's. Richards also dons a blond wig as a disguise and, bizarrely, is immediately met by someone with strikingly similar hair.

When they start exchanging memories from the "Seinfeld" days, Richards transitions to the heckling incident. He thanks Seinfeld for "sticking by me."

"Inside, it still kicks me around a bit," says Richards.

The conversation winds down after Seinfeld urges Richards to try to lay down his guilt, having carried it so long. □

Romney And The Forbes 400



JOE NOCERA

© 2012 New York Times

Last week, sandwiched between Monday's leak of the video in which Mitt Romney dismissed "the 47 percent" and Friday's release of the Romneys' 2011 tax returns – showing that they had paid an effective tax rate of 14 percent – Forbes magazine published its annual list of the 400 wealthiest Americans.

There weren't a lot of surprises on the Forbes 400. Bill Gates, with an estimated net worth of \$66 billion, remains the wealthiest man in the country. He is a whopping \$20 billion richer than his pal Warren Buffett, who came in at No. 2, according to Forbes. All the usual suspects were there: Michael Bloomberg; George Soros; the Koch brothers; various descendants of Sam Walton, the founder of Wal-Mart; and on and on.

What was illuminating was not so much who was on the list but what they collectively told us about the state of the richest of the rich. Thirty years ago, when Forbes published its first Forbes 400, a net worth of \$75 million would get you on the list. Today it takes \$1.1 billion. In the last year alone, the cumulative net worth of the wealthiest 400 people, by Forbes' calculation, rose by \$200 billion. That compares with a 4 percent drop in median household income last year, according to the Census Bureau. One would be hard pressed to find a clearer example of how powerfully income inequality has taken root.

Like Romney, Forbes magazine is a little defensive about this – and, like Romney, Forbes has adopted a self-justifying narrative. Luisa Kroll, one of the magazine's "wealth editors," nods toward "concerns" about income inequality in her introduction to the list, but she goes on to write that "a deeper analysis instills confidence that the American dream is still very much alive." In fact, it does nothing of the sort. The fundamental reason the Romneys pay so little in taxes is that the bulk of their income comes from investments and thus is taxed at the capital gains rate of 15 percent. Although Romney himself isn't close to being rich enough to join the Forbes 400, his reliance on capi-

tal gains is a trait he shares with most of the ultrawealthy. It is the thread that ties together the Forbes 400.

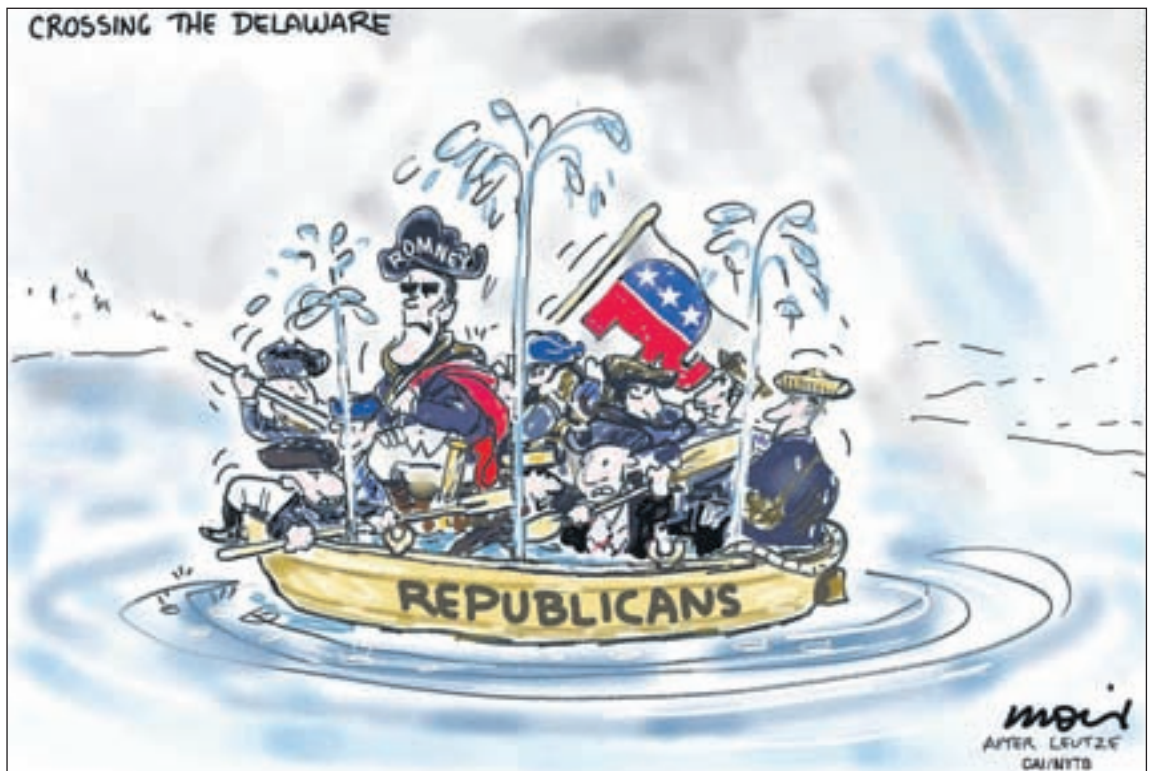
Financiers, who make up a large percentage of the Forbes 400, long ago found ways to convert their compensation to capital gains, for instance. Romney, of course, did the same thing when he was running Bain Capital, a private equity firm. But even those who are not on Wall Street rely on capital gains. A large number of the Forbes 400 – "roughly 40 percent," according to a group called United for a Fair Economy – inherited their wealth. Many others on the list – people who started companies that they've since left – are classified by Forbes as investors.

Even many of the corporate executives on the Forbes 400 are likely paying lower tax rate. Many of them get minimal cash compensation and rely on stock options for the bulk of their wealth. Or they maneuver to take their companies through a leveraged buyout, which reaps them huge potential capital gains. In 2009, according to recent congressional testimony by Leonard E. Burman, a professor at Syracuse University, the 400 highest-income taxpayers reaped an astounding 16 percent of all capital gains.

All of which would be justifiable if the country got some benefit in return. On "60 Minutes" Sunday night, when Romney was asked about the justification for his low tax rate, he said what most conservatives say, that a low capital gains rate is "the right way to encourage economic growth, to get people to invest, to start businesses, to put people to work."

This is also what Forbes means when it links its list to "the American dream." Except that there is no evidence that it's true. In 1986, when Ronald Reagan was president, the differential between capital gains and ordinary income was eliminated – and the economy soared. The capital gains rate was higher during the Bill Clinton years than in the George W. Bush years, yet the economy did better under Clinton than under Bush.

In the printed copy of his congressional testimony, Burman has a chart that plots the ups and downs of the economy since the 1950s with changes in the capital gains rate. There is no correlation between the two. The idea that a lower capital gains rate spurs economic growth is one of the enduring myths of conservative thought. The American dream exists not because of the capital gains differential but in spite of it. It is the tax break that most glaringly exists to benefit the wealthy. If you have any doubts about that, all you need to do is read the latest Forbes 400. □



Why Not Debtors' Prison?



MAUREEN DOWD

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So it has come to this:

While the Muslim world was burning, Mitt Romney was telling Kelly Ripa that he wears as little as possible to bed. And on the day world leaders gathered at the United Nations, President Barack Obama's only high-level sit-down in New York was with the ladies of "The View," teasing, "I'm just supposed to be eye candy here for you guys."

Romney said he was very troubled that Obama went on "The View" and skipped meeting other leaders, especially Benjamin Netanyahu of Israel.

Netanyahu did not deserve a meeting and neither did President Mohamed Morsi of Egypt. But Obama would have been better off spending time in New York talking to Hamid Karzai, given that U.S. troops are still in Afghanistan and given how chary we are about turning over security to that less-than-inspiring government.

In a world of dogs, diplomatically speaking, Obama is a cat. Just as he suffered from his standoffish approach with Congress, donors and his base, our feline president can be oblivious to the neediness of other less Zen leaders.

As Helene Cooper and Robert Worth wrote in The Times on Tuesday, some Arab officials are critical of Obama's impersonal, distant style.

"You can't fix these problems by remote control," one Arab diplomat told The Times.

At least the president has a for-

eign policy. Romney and Paul Ryan haven't spent time thinking and speaking a lot about foreign policy. They have simply taken the path of least resistance and parroted the views of their neocon advisers. They talk all tough at Iran and Syria and label the president a weak apologist and buildup bogymen and rant about how America must dictate events in the Middle East. That's not a doctrine; it's a treacherous neocon echo.

It's amazing that many of the neocons who were involved in the Iraq debacle are back riding high. (Foreign Policy magazine reports that 17 of Romney's 24 special advisers on foreign policy were in W.'s administration.) But no one has come along to replace them, or reinstitute some kind of Poppy Bush-James Baker-Brent Scowcroft realpolitik internationalism.

The neocons are still where the GOP intellectual energy is, and they're still in the blogosphere hammering candidates who stray from their hawkish orthodoxy. Democrats have claimed the international center once inhabited by Bush senior and his advisers.

On foreign and domestic policy, Republicans have outsourced their brains to right-wing think tanks. It's one thing for conservatives at the American Enterprise Institute and other think tanks to sit around and theorize about the number of people who are "dependent" on government programs and to deplore the trend, or to strategize on privatizing Medicare. If you've got a lot of people on government programs, their response is not to help those people get off the programs, it's to cut the programs.

The Romney campaign has turned conservative theory into ideology and gone off the cliff with it. If you want to inspire, lead and unite people, it won't fly to take ideologically driven findings and present them unvarnished

to voters.

At the Clinton Global Initiative Tuesday, Romney talked about tying foreign aid to "the promotion of work and the fostering of free enterprise" in the Middle East and other developing countries.

It was a variation on what Romney said on the infamous leaked tape to the fat-cat donors about half the country being victims and moochers, promulgating the idea that any aid makes people worse off instead of better off. Next he will want to bring back debtors' prisons.

(It's the same in Europe, as Germany debates how much to give to Greece, Spain and Portugal, or whether to dismiss them as bad, reckless and unworthy of being bailed out more.)

Dick Cheney, Donald Rumsfeld and the neocons were inspired by deus ex machina theories baked at the AEI to try and force democracy on Iraq, assuming that people would just become better – and incredibly grateful to us.

Now the neocons inside Romney's head are pushing the same idea: that we can whack countries in the Middle East and they'll behave.

As Dan Senor, a top foreign policy adviser to both Romney and Ryan, told Andrea Mitchell on MSNBC on Tuesday about Iran: "We're not saying the military action should be used. But we are arguing that the threat of military action should be credible so it focuses the Iranian leadership on reaching some diplomatic solution."

That was exactly the argument the same neocon gaggle used when they were pushing an invasion of Iraq. But somehow the diplomatic part got superseded. As President Obama said on "60 Minutes," "If Governor Romney is suggesting that we should start another war, he should say so." Looking at crumbling poll numbers, Romney may learn that when you don't think for yourself, you tank. □

Fashion shows travel continents and eras in Paris

THOMAS ADAMSON

AP Fashion Writer

PARIS (AP) — Paris fashion has no boundaries and no borders.

MANISH ARORA

India — home to over a billion people and one of the most colorful cultures



A model wears a creation for French fashion designer Barbara Bui's ready to wear Spring-Summer 2013 collection, presented in Paris, Thursday, Sept.27, 2012.

(AP Photo/Jacques Brinon)

Thursday's cultural melting pot of spring-summer 2013 shows was proof enough. Curious designers, thirsty for new inspiration, ventured across the globe to bring new ideas and exotic cultures back to the catwalk.

Manish Arora traveled to northwestern India's Rajasthan to bring Paris a vibrant infusion of traditional Indian dress and lavish regal jewelry.

Balmain's creative nomad Olivier Rousteing, meanwhile, replaced last season's muse — the Russian Empire's Faberge Egg — to travel to the artisanal wicker-weavers of Cuba to give his in-vogue summer black collection a unique panache.

Barbara Bui, who also channeled black, joined the expedition with geometric American Indian prints and tribal-looking dresses and foulards.

Taking another tack, Nina Ricci, forever a romantic Parisian gamine, traveled decades back in time to produce a nostalgic show with a modern twist.

Friday's collections include Roland Mouret and Issey Miyake, as well as the debut ready-to-wear show for new Christian Dior designer Raf Simons.

in the world — is a limitless creative touchstone for designers. So it's surprising that Mumbai-born Manish Arora — perhaps the subcontinent's most famous designer — has not delved into its rich fashion encyclopedia before.

That is until now. Arora presented a spicy

"Luckily, this year I was very attracted toward jewelry: Is there a better place to draw inspiration?" said Arora, dressed in a flamboyant gold top.

Arora took us by the bejeweled hand down a goldmine of revamped traditional Indian dress. Angrakha dresses with orange patterns were set off boldly with a shiny chainmail pant, alongside geometric prints of tigers, panthers and antelope. However, the show was really about the jewelry, as sublime ornamentation reigned in some of the collection's more garish looks. At one point there were gasps as the Maharaja's daughter came down the catwalk: Resplendent in a standout gold face-band that circled the bottom of the eyes.

BARBARA BUI

"Black is back for summer," declared Barbara Bui, following her saleable, and typically feminine collection for spring-summer 2013.



A model wears a creation for French fashion designer Barbara Bui's ready to wear Spring-Summer 2013 collection, presented in Paris, Thursday, Sept.27, 2012.

(AP Photo/Jacques Brinon)

and bohemian homage to his homeland for spring-summer 2013 at Paris Fashion Week. But why now?

The French-Vietnamese designer opened the show true to her word, with a series of sexy-looking black nappa ensembles. □



Deborah Needleman in New York, Nov. 18, 2008. The New York Times announced Thursday, Sept. 27, 2012, that Needleman, the editor in chief of The Wall Street Journal's style magazine, has been hired to run T: The New York Times Style Magazine.

(Lars Klove/The New York Times)

Times picks Needleman to run its style magazine

CHRISTINE HAUGHNEY

© 2012 New York Times

NEW YORK — Deborah Needleman, the editor in chief of The Wall Street Journal's style magazine, has been hired to run T: The New York Times Style Magazine, the Times announced Thursday.

Needleman is taking over a franchise that publishes 15 issues a year and is closely followed in the fashion industry.

Needleman will replace Sally Singer, a former Vogue editor who left The Times in August after running the T magazines for two years.

Jill Abramson, executive editor of The New York Times, said she expected Needleman to help drive T's expansion.

"Deborah is a creative and innovative editor with an impeccable sense of style

and design," Abramson said in a statement. "As we look to expand and extend T and continue to evolve it for our loyal and sophisticated New York Times audience, we will rely on Deborah's broad range of experience and creative energy. She is coming on board to strengthen the franchise and reimagine its future on all platforms."

In addition to running The Journal's style magazine, WSJ, Needleman oversaw the paper's weekend lifestyle section, called Off Duty.

Earlier in her career she founded the style and decorating magazine Domino, and was an editor at large for House & Garden. She also co-authored "Domino: The Book of Decorating" and wrote "The Perfectly Imperfect Home." □